

THE NATIONAL WOOL GROWER

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NATIONAL WOOL GROWER

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EDITOR F. R. MARSHALL
ASSISTANT EDITOR IRENE YOUNG
Salt Lake City, Utah.

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THE EDITOR'S BOX

Appeals from Executive Decisions

Confidence in our government is maintained and strengthened by such actions as the decision of the Supreme Court in the old Emergency Tariff combing wool case, discussed in this issue. Such action gives confidence not so much because it happens in this case to accord with the views of wool growers as because of demonstration of the fact that official acts of government agents at the ports of entry are shown to be subject to review by impartial tribunals.

In the Omaha case of commission charges for selling live stock Federal court proceeding is under way for review of the action of the Secretary of Agriculture and an appeal from the forthcoming decision may still be taken to the Supreme Court either by the Secretary or by the commission men. This is as it should be. Even in such matters as collection of custom duties and commission charges the wording of the statutes necessarily leaves rather wide discretionary powers in the hands of the executive officials and provision for appeal is essential.

In the administration of government-owned property and contractual relations with the government, there appears to be no legal provision for judicial review of any acts of officials in such matters. The rulings of the heads of executive departments are final. There probably are good reasons for such a situation, though there are several matters in which there is lack of satisfaction and confidence as a result of the inability to secure impartial review of decisions by officials in such matters as grazing permits and charges, land titles, and other matters directly affecting the finances and welfare of a large number of individuals whose position renders them partially or altogether dependent upon business connections with the government.

Future Trading in Lambs

Whatever may be the opinion of sheepmen regarding the value of future transactions, it is a fact that there is heavy dealing in future contracts for lambs. There is no form of regulation or supervision of such transactions. The fact that lambs are dealt in by so many people who are ready and anxious to back their judgment on future prices probably is due to the fact that public stockyards offer a constant opportunity to secure going market value for either finished or unfinished stock.

Considerable complaint was voiced last year over the margin of profits obtained by operators who had made early contracts for delivery of feeder lambs. While excessive speculation is to be decried, it must be recognized that in country buying of either feeder lambs or stock sheep a necessary service is rendered by such middle men. Unfortunately some of these operators have apparently not been financially responsible, and innocent producers have been unable to obtain full payments for their deliveries. There are numerous men engaged in this business with whom deals safely can be made by those unwilling to consign their own stock to the public markets.

Farm Relief Through Tariff

There is no more thorough and capable student of American agriculture than Charles F. Curtiss, who for many years has been dean of the famous agricultural department of the Iowa State College at Ames. In a recently published statement this authority said:

"The fundamental and most urgent need of the agricultural industry of the United States is a guarantee of the American market for the products of the American farm. * * * We are importing enough low-grade molasses from countries to displace about 150,000,000 bushels of corn annually in the manufacture of commercial alcohol. We are importing meat products equivalent to 100,000 head of cattle annually. * * * We are importing over a million bushels of corn a year, and, if we had a market that would net the corn grower \$1 a bushel, the importation of corn might easily reach 100,000,000 bushels annually.

"American agriculture cannot prosper without the guarantee of the American market, any more than American industry or American labor can prosper without the same guarantee."

It is not the fault of Congress that corn belt agriculture is suffering through imports of molasses paying a duty of only one-sixth of a cent per gallon and of corn which pays fifteen cents per bushel. When the tariff law was written no testimony was presented to show the fact of direct competition in American markets between foreign molasses and home grown corn. Dean Curtiss has shown the safe and proper basis for government aid to corn belt farmers.

CUSTOMS COURT REVERSED ON WOOL CASE

The U. S. Supreme Court recently rendered an important decision in respect to the duties collected on wools under the Emergency Tariff Act of 1921.

While the recent case does not affect present-day importations it is of peculiar interest as an expression of the Supreme Court's position on the matter which the Customs Court of Appeals had decided in favor of the importers. This reversal may possibly influence the action of the Customs Court of Appeals in the case of the duty of B. A. 6s discussed in last month's Wool Grower. Since the rendering of the decision in the Supreme Court in the combing wool case the U. S. Attorney General has asked the Court of Customs Appeal for a retrial of the B. A. 6s case.

The Emergency Tariff Act provided a duty of 15 cents per pound upon all unwashed wool, "commonly known as clothing wool, including hair of the camel, angora goat, and alpaca, but not such wools as are commonly known as carpet wools."

It was generally understood and agreed that the language of the bill was adequate to require the collection of the specified duty on all kinds and grades of wool used for clothing purposes. Some considerable time after the passage of the act, however, one importer filed an appeal on the basis of a claim that wools imported by him were of the combing class and that the language of the act applied only to the wools of shorter staple, commonly considered 'clothing.' This case finally reached the U. S. Court of Customs Appeals and was decided in favor of the importer. That court maintained that no regard could be given to the intention of the framers of the act and their interpretation of the language supported the contention that the term 'clothing' should be used in a technical sense and not in the general sense as it occurred in the law. In the initial case the government attorneys had failed to attach a certificate of import and were thereby prevented from taking an appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court.

The Treasury declined to refund the duties that had been collected on comb-

ing wools under the Emergency Tariff and another importer instituted proceedings. This case was decided upon by the Customs Court in the same way as the previous one. However, provision had been made for an appeal and the recent decision of reversal resulted. The opinion was rendered by Chief Justice Taft.

The case of B. A. 6s is entirely different from that of the combing wool case, but the opinion of the Supreme Court that regard must be had for the intent of framers of legislation and that the general instead of the technical term must be recognized may cause the Customs Court to adopt a different view, in the event that there is a retrial of the case regarding the interpretation of the language of paragraph 1101 of the present law as relating to the low grade imports from South America.

Regular importations of B. A. 6s are not of sufficient volume to be of great importance in the wool trade even if they should be admitted at a low rate of duty. It is considered possible that similar wools of some of the finer fiber might have been admitted at the 12-cent rate in case the customs officials should be compelled to accept as final the recent decision of the Custom Court. It is to be hoped that a retrial will be granted and that provision will be made for appeal to the Supreme Court.

PROMOTING LAMB CONSUMPTION

The Wool Grower does not subscribe to all the views expressed by Mr. Shallenberger in his article printed in this issue. The National Wool Growers Association is interested in the increasing of the outlet for lamb and seriously has discussed plans for taking up such work. The plans so far entertained have not called for any material expenditure in newspaper or magazine advertising. The association officers have considered the use of educational methods for adding to the number of persons who buy lamb from retail butchers or order it at public eating places. There is now no prospect of having sufficient funds even to make a beginning upon such a nation-wide campaign of advertising as has been advocated by some who have written upon the subject.

At the Butte convention a special committee composed of J. B. Wilson, Wyoming, S. Grover Rich, Idaho, F. M. Rothrock, Washington, and Vice-president Johns of Arizona, was appointed to canvass with railroad and commission men the question of making a collection of \$1.00 per car on sheep and lambs shipped to market. After determining that the making of such a collection through the railroads was not practical, Mr. Wilson, acting as chairman of the committee, arranged with the chairman of the National Live Stock Exchange, to consider the question with officials of that association. Individual commission houses had expressed themselves as desirable of obtaining the approval of the national organization of commission men before attempting to make any collections. The question was presented to a special committee by President Hagenbarth and the Secretary of the National Wool Growers Association on May 28 at Omaha.

The national convention of commission men was in session at that time. After full consideration and discussion the special committee advised the representatives of the wool growers that they would make a report to the executive session of their organization. They emphasized however the difficulty of securing cooperation of shippers in such collections and suggested that the wool growers should file a tariff providing for such collections with the Packers and Stockyards Administration at Washington. The filing of such a tariff as approved by the Packers and Stockyards Administration would call for the general collection on all shipments without offering opportunity for refunding the charge to the shippers in approving its collection. The representatives of the National Wool Growers Association were informed, following the close of the commission men's session, that no action had been taken and that it was recommended that the growers make the necessary arrangement with the Packers and Stockyards Administration. The matter will be considered with those officials by representatives of the association in the near future.

Two opposing views have been printed in the Wool Grower in reply to Mr. Shallenberger's first article in which he ex-

pressed opposition to the idea of advertising lamb. The question is an important one and the Wool Grower will endeavor to continue to find space for other views on either side of the question as long as they deal with the real features of the situation.

While recent contract prices for feeder lambs are encouraging as are also prospects for fat lamb prices, it must also be remembered that there have been ruinous conditions in the lamb markets within recent months. While the effect of these fell chiefly upon the feeders they nevertheless directly affect lamb raisers. The object of the National Wool Growers Association in its consideration of this matter is not to elevate existing prices, but to broaden the demand for lamb sufficiently to provide an outlet for apparently certain larger production and for the heavy supplies unavoidably marketed in some periods of the year, and to do this without causing a demoralization of prices.

HEARINGS ON LIVE STOCK FREIGHT RATES

The announcement of a series of hearings in the West upon live-stock freight rates has been made by the Interstate Commerce Commission. The rates to come under consideration include all those west of Chicago, with regard both to market movements and to movements between ranges and from ranges to feed lots.

These hearings are scheduled as a part of the consideration of the general structure of live-stock rates which was begun in 1925 as I. C. C. Docket 17,000. That case was initiated by the commission itself following the passage on January 30, 1925, through Congress of the Hoch-Smith resolution. That resolution authorized and directed the commission to make a thorough investigation of freight rates "to determine to what extent and in what manner existing rates and charges may be unjust, unreasonable, * * * or giving undue advantage as between the various localities and parts of the country, the various classes of traffic, and the various classes and kinds of commodities, and to make, in accordance with the law, such changes, adjustments, and redistri-

bution of rates and charges as may be found necessary to correct any defects, so found to exist." The same resolution directed the commission to "effect with the least practicable delay such lawful changes in the rate structure of the country as will promote the freedom of movement by common carriers of the products of agriculture affected by that depression, (agricultural) including live stock, at the lowest possible lawful rates compatible with the maintenance of adequate transportation service."

Freight rates on live stock and agricultural products were considered and discussed along with those on all commodities in a series of hearings held in the fall months of 1925. In those hearings there was also considered, by order of the commission, the application of the railroads for a general increase of 5 per cent in freight rates. This request was subsequently denied, but its consideration during the 1925 hearing had prevented the adequate and necessary consideration of the broad principles outlined in the Hoch-Smith resolution. A new series of hearings has now been announced for that purpose, and agricultural commodities and live-stock rates are scheduled for attention at the outset.

The dates set for consideration of live-stock rates are: Salt Lake City, June 30; Portland, July 6; Los Angeles, July 15. It is expected that at least one additional hearing will be scheduled for a later date at Omaha or Chicago.

In order to clarify the situation the commission has combined with Docket 17,000 eight other cases concerning live-stock rates which are before the commission at this time. The order for the coming hearings states: "The whole situation is one requiring constructive treatment. It is the intention of the commission to deal comprehensively with the whole system of live-stock rates in the western district, (Chicago to western coast) with a view to bringing about a more harmonious adjustment." The commission enlists fourteen topics upon which it is suggested that representatives of the live-stock industry should express their opinions in the hearings scheduled. These suggested topics include a plan of (a) dividing the territory into three

SUMMER EVENTS FOR STOCKMEN

Summer meeting Utah Wool Growers Association—July 12, Cedar City, Utah.

Annual convention Arizona Wool Growers Association—July 12-13, Flagstaff, Ariz.

Annual convention and ram sale of the Sheep and Goat Raisers Association of Texas—July 19-20-21, Kerrville, Texas.

Idaho Ram Sale—August 10, Filer, Idaho.

Oregon Ram Sale—August 18-19, Pendleton, Oregon.

National Ram Sale—August 29-30-31, Salt Lake City.

zones; (b) the relative levels of rates within and between the zones; (c) the use of a mileage scale as the principal basis for rates; (d) the establishment of rates based on distance to apply upon shipments over one or more lines; (e) the adoption of uniform minimum carload weights throughout the western district; (f) the statement of all rates in cents per hundred-pounds instead of in dollars per car; (g) the maintenance of special rates upon stocker and feeder animals.

The above outline of the proposed procedure indicates that practically every consideration connected with the live-stock freight rates will receive attention. In the event of a final decision by the commission based upon conclusions on all of these topics no further consideration of such rates should be necessary for some years at least. With the air cleared as to all pending complaints and with some general broad rules laid down it should be expected that subsequent petitions for changes of rates would not be made by either shippers or railroad officials.

While consideration is to be given to all inequalities found in existing rates applying in different sections and to different markets, the action of Congress and the order of the commission contemplates that general policies and matters of public interest shall be considered. These include such points as the distribution of cost of supporting railroads between live-stock, agriculture and other classes of freight; and the determination of revenue necessary to permit returns on investment in railways and to insure the maintenance of proper and efficient transportation service.

The National Wool Growers Association will be represented by counsel and by its officers in these hearings. Considerable

testimony was submitted by the association at the previous hearing, at which time it was urged upon the commission that it would be in the public interest to transfer a part of the present charges of live-stock movements to some other classes of traffic in which transportation over long distances is not so essential when viewed from the interest of both producers and consumers of commodities which move by rail. The financial condition of the industry was also presented as it will be again set forth. The association has taken the position that its members expect to pay for good service, yet the profits from their operation are usually modest and frequently not realized, rendering it inadvisable and against the public interest to apportion to the industry more than a very reasonable share of the cost of maintaining transportation facilities.

The association is in communication with the state associations regarding the character of testimony to be offered at the hearings and the selection of witnesses and will cooperate with the American National Live Stock Association in the presentation of testimony by and for stockmen and in making recommendations regarding rates to be decided upon. The matter appears largely to be one for argument by experts familiar with present rate schedules and with former procedure in determining the levels of rates in different sections and on different commodities. The minimum weights for carloads of sheep and other complicated questions will all require consideration in the attempt to establish rates that can be maintained for a long time and to bring about "a more harmonious adjustment."

SUMMER MEETING OF UTAH ASSOCIATION

A summer meeting of the Utah Wool Growers Association is to be held at Cedar City, Utah, July 12, with sessions at ten a. m. and two p. m. and a banquet in the evening.

President Hagenbarth of the National Wool Growers Association, President Harvey of the state organization, Secretaries Hooper and Marshall and other speakers are expected to attend.

THE CENSUS BUREAU AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT DIFFER ON SHEEP POPULATION

A difference of 6.6 per cent is found in the official reports on the number of sheep in the United States as published for January 1, 1925, by the Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the Department of Agriculture.

In 1925 for the first time the Census Bureau undertook to make an enumeration of live-stock data other than for ten-year periods. Their figures for the first of that year were published under date of April 18, 1927, and placed the number of sheep in the United States for January 1, 1925, at 35,590,195.

The Department of Agriculture publishes annually very carefully prepared estimates based on reports of its field men and a considerable number of regular correspondents. These estimates, however, are published as such and ordinarily would not have the same value, or be so accurate as the Census Bureau's enumerations. Apparently some question has been raised as to the thoroughness or correctness of the census count for 1925. At any rate following the belated publication of that bureau's figures for January 1, 1925, the Department of Agriculture has revised its figures and published its estimate of 38,112,000 for the same date, which is a difference of 6.6 per cent in the two reports. Regarding the discrepancy in the figures, the Department of Agriculture says:

"The department's present estimates for all states for 1920 and 1925 do not agree with the census figures. The department's present estimates undertake to cover sheep and lambs on feed in feed yards as well as on farms, and available information indicates that the census enumerations covered these only in part. The estimates here shown are based upon the census, supplemented by careful study of marketings, assessments, wool shipments, death losses, and other pertinent information, and it is thought they show fairly accurately the trend of sheep numbers from 1920 to 1927."

According to the Census Bureau there was an increase of only 1.5 per cent in the number of sheep in this country from 1920 to 1925, while the Department of Agriculture estimates a decrease of 5.5 per cent in the same period. It apparently remains for those interested to make their own selection from the two sets of governmentally prepared figures, though it would

rather seem that in this case those published by the Agricultural Department may be more nearly correct. It can always be said that the chief value in reports of this kind is for comparative purposes, although it must be confessed that in this instance the comparison of 1925 figures with those of 1920 as based upon figures of the two bureaus results in widely varying conclusions.

In continuing its annual estimates of the number of live stock as of January 1, the Department of Agriculture estimates an increase of 9.9 per cent between January 1, 1925, and January 1, 1927. The increase during the year 1926 is estimated as 5.1 per cent, the largest count of 15.9 per cent being reported from eight south central states which had a combined total at the first of this year of 5,737,000 sheep. The number of head estimated to be on hand (including feeders) in the twelve principal range states at the beginning of each of the last two years is as follows:

STATE	1926	1927	1927
			per cent of 1926
Montana	2,880	2,736	95
Idaho	1,880	1,974	105
Wyoming	2,870	3,100	108
Colorado	2,537	1,845	73
New Mexico	2,184	2,490	114
Arizona	1,220	1,270	104
Utah	2,472	2,650	107
Nevada	1,175	1,260	107
Washington	478	526	110
Oregon	2,120	2,226	105
California	3,200	3,500	109
Texas	3,535	4,242	120

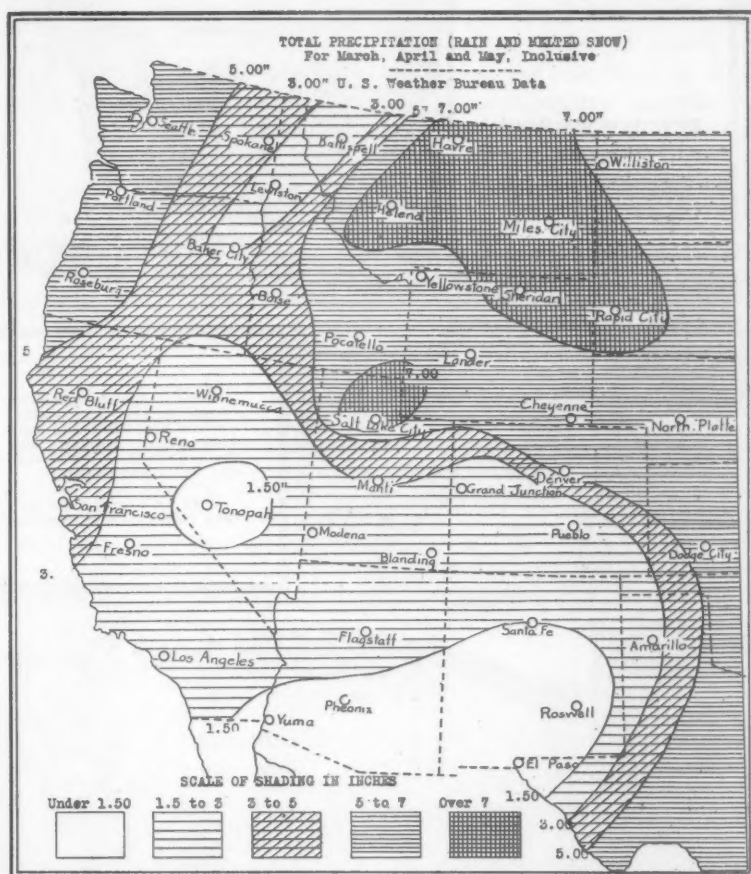
ARIZONA ASSOCIATION CALLS CONVENTION

The forty-first annual convention of the Arizona Wool Growers Association is called for July 12-13, at Flagstaff, Arizona, "for the purpose of electing officers and members of the board of directors for the ensuing year, and for the transaction of such business as may properly come before the association."

Governmental officials and men prominent in industries allied to that of sheep raising will be in attendance to cooperate with growers in the consideration of their problems.

The July issue of the Wool Grower will contain a continuation of the discussion of the distribution of lamb market receipts as started in the January issue and considered at the annual convention in Butte.

THE SEASON'S RAINFALL



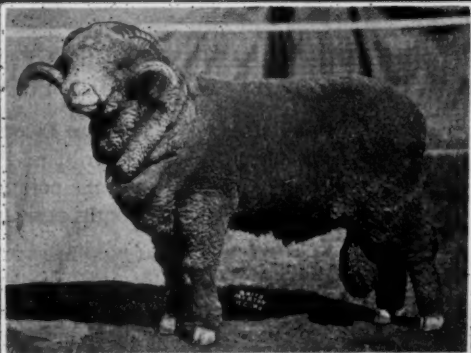
DISTRIBUTION DURING MARCH, APRIL AND MAY

Spring weather has been rather variable over the western range territory, with more than the usual number of cold snaps and damaging frosts, which hindered the growth of grasses, browse, meadows and planted crops. Precipitation has been quite unevenly distributed, as shown by the accompanying table and chart. Montana and parts of the Dakotas, Wyoming, Idaho and Utah, are entering the summer with an ample supply of soil moisture; while an unusual drought has desiccated much of western Texas, New Mexico, southern Utah, southern Nevada and southern California. In these latter areas rain is urgently needed, if it is not in fact already too late to be of value in parts of southeastern New Mexico. Most of the excess of precipitation in Montana, western Dakotas, northeastern Wyoming and northern Utah came in May, while at the same time the greatest deficiencies were accumulated in May in western Nebraska, western Kansas, eastern Colorado, southern Utah and most of New Mexico. The total precipitation for the three spring months, tabulated herewith, was appreciably above normal in Montana east of the continental divide, in southern Idaho, and northern Utah. The rest of the West generally has had insufficient rains and snows, or has had them inopportunistically and in unfavorable distribution for the best crop and forage development. Spring precipitation totals are least, compared with normal, in southeastern Washington, eastern Oregon, central California, southeastern New Mexico and extreme western Texas.

EXCESS AND DEFICIENCY OF MOISTURE AT VARIOUS POINTS

Precipitation on the Western Live Stock Ranges during March, April and May, 1927, with departure from the normal for the last three and six months periods.

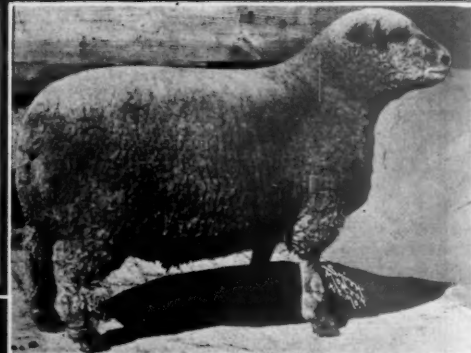
Station	Total for 3 months	Departure last 3 months	Departure last 6 months
WASHINGTON			
Seattle	6.08	-0.90	-1.22
Spokane	3.49	-0.24	+0.35
Walla Walla	3.28	-2.14	-2.70
OREGON			
Portland	6.04	-3.87	-0.74
Baker City	2.11	-2.00	-2.74
Roseburg	5.72	-2.79	-1.53
CALIFORNIA			
Red Bluff	4.18	-2.75	-0.40
San Francisco	4.24	-1.53	-2.42
Fresno	2.02	-1.08	-0.28
Los Angeles	2.77	-1.84	+0.78
NEVADA			
Winnemucca	2.56	-0.30	+0.62
Reno	2.04	+0.01	-0.59
Tonopah	0.43	-1.11	-1.92
ARIZONA			
Flagstaff	2.59	-2.38	-1.99
Phoenix	0.76	-0.19	+0.11
NEW MEXICO			
Santa Fe	1.47	-1.23	-0.16
Roswell	0.15	-2.57	-2.78
TEXAS			
Amarillo	2.48	-3.56	-4.50
Abilene	5.64	-1.74	+5.00
El Paso	0.28	-0.68	-1.19
MONTANA			
Helena	7.68	+3.85	+3.16
Kalispell	2.64	-1.53	-2.60
Havre	8.82	+5.24	+4.96
Miles City	7.34	+3.42	+3.03
Williston, N. Dak.	6.13	+1.96	+2.08
IDAHO			
Lewiston	2.92	-1.12	-2.12
Pocatello	5.83	-0.14	+1.35
Boise	3.64	-0.27	+0.36
UTAH			
Logan	7.40	+1.54	+1.28
Salt Lake City	7.86	+1.65	+2.01
Modena	2.04	-0.92	-1.00
Blanding	2.03	-0.99	+0.34
WYOMING			
Yellowstone	5.08	-0.39	-3.50
Sheridan	9.28	+3.37	+2.75
Lander	5.45	-1.51	-0.92
Cheyenne	6.11	+0.88	+1.62
Rapid City, S. D.	11.53	+5.27	+4.47
North Platte, Neb.	6.02	-0.06	-0.54
COLORADO			
Denver	5.22	-0.49	-0.86
Pueblo	2.20	-1.77	-1.20
Grand Junction	2.44	+0.05	+2.41
Dodge City, Kas.	6.84	+0.75	+0.72



Above — First Prize "C" type Rambouillet ram lamb at the 1927 Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show, held at Fort Worth, Texas. Exhibited by the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College.

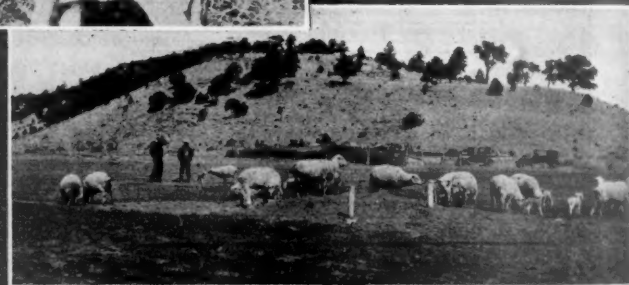
Below — Sheep feeding plant in eastern Wyoming.

Below — In an Ohio farmyard.



Above — Grand champion wether at the 1927 Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show. Exhibited by the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College.

Below — Lambing on the open range in New Mexico.



Left — Grand champion wether at the 1927 Inter-mountain Stock Show at North Salt Lake. Bred and exhibited by Dell Adams of Layton, Utah. This wether weighed 150 pounds and sold at \$1.35 a pound.

Right — Reserve champion Rambouillet wether lamb at the 1926 International. Bred and exhibited by the University of California.

Below — Drop band and lambing sheds in central Idaho.



AROUND THE RANGE COUNTRY

The notes on weather conditions appearing under the name of the various states are furnished by J. Cecil Alter or the U. S. Weather Bureau, and based upon reports and publications of that bureau.

The letters are from interested readers. The Wool Grower welcomes and desires such communications from any part of the country and also invites comments and opinions upon questions relating to the sheep industry and statements of occurrences of importance and significance to wool growers.

WYOMING

May was a hard month on live stock, inclement weather causing rather heavy and general losses early in the month, when snow was heavy and the weather severely cold and windy. Copious moisture has been excellent for the range but warmth is still needed to bring on the grass and other forage. Spring plantings have been delayed, and growth of crops is slow. Lambing and shearing losses have been somewhat more than normal due to bad weather.

Border

May weather was windy and cold, but spring feed conditions are very good. The lamb yields here are just as good, if not better than they were last year; the losses were just about the same. Sales of wool have been reported at 30 to 32½ cents a pound. No transactions in ewes reported and no lambs are being contracted.

Parley T. Anderson.

MONTANA

May was unusually cold and stormy, especially during the early part, when considerable losses were sustained among range cattle and horses, and later among young stuff. Spring crop growth has been retarded, and ranges are slow, but in most sections are reported good or excellent with cattle doing well. Precipitation has been exceptionally heavy, and the mountains have heavy snow stores, streams are full and the soils are soaked especially in western counties. Warm weather is much needed.

Virgelle

We are about through lambing in Montana and from all reports a good percentage has been made by all sheepmen, notwithstanding our many storms and continuous rains; for it has been the wettest May on record. The grazing lands are simply great and the lambs should be fine by the time they are weaned this fall.

Shearing will soon be the order of the days and our clip of wool should be clean on account of so much rain.

V. T. Blankenbaker.

Tampico

We had a long winter, but suffered hardly any loss. April and May lambing percentages are the smallest since 1912. April was cold and stormy and during May it has rained continuously. In fact, it has been the worst spring in years. Feed conditions, however, are good.

There were about ten per cent more ewes to be lambled this year, but the number of lambs saved in proportion to the ewes is under last year's by twenty per cent. This, of course, is just a guess, but not overestimated.

No contracts for feeder lambs have been signed lately, but previously they were on a ten and 10½-cent basis. Wool estimated to shrink around 60 to 62 per cent has been sold lately at 34 and 35 cents.

John Etchart.

Custer

Feed on the spring range is the best (May 5) in a number of years past. But not by any stretch of the imagination can the same be said of the weather, for April was cloudy, cold and stormy throughout.

Shearing has not commenced here yet, but I think the rate for shearers will be around 12½ cents per head with board. From 33 to 35 cents has been paid for wool shrinking around 63 or 64 per cent.

The lamb crop is about the same size as last year's. Contracts for feeder lambs have been made at ten to eleven cents.

J. W. Quest.

Martinsdale

We have had very bad weather during May and our losses during lambing have been quite heavy. We estimate that on this account our lamb yield will be under that of 1926 by about 20 per cent.

Eleven cents is the recent contract price for wether lambs, fall delivery, and 35 cents has been paid for wool estimated to shrink 62 per cent.

Feed on the range is fair.

Henry Pump.

IDAHO

Timely and copious rains in northern counties were fine for pastures, ranges and meadows, but warmer weather is needed. Some alfalfa was cut in the lower valleys, but most of it was awaiting better weather. Ranges and pastures were excellent and live stock were thriving. Lambing was completed early in the month, and shearing progressed with little hindrance. Alfalfa was making slow growth in southern counties for the want of warmth, but moisture was generally plentiful. Range feed was making slow growth, and live stock were mostly in only fair condition. Shearing was retarded by wet weather but is practically completed. Some rather serious losses were reported among shorn sheep at Emmett.

Oakley

The feed on the spring range in this locality is short owing to the cold and backward spring. There was a heavier loss in young lambs this spring than usual. My percentage is larger than last year's, but the quality of the lambs is not so good. During the past few weeks feeder lambs have been contracted at 11 cents. Older ewes with lambs have been purchased recently at \$10 a head, but no yearlings have been sold. We sold our wool for 32 cents.

J. E. Franks.

Melba

May has been a very backward month, but feed on the range is in fair condition.

Sales of wool have been made here at around 28 and 29 cents; the wool estimated to shrink 66 per cent. No ewes have changed hands. Contracts for

feeder lambs, fall delivery, have been made at 10½ cents recently.

Loss in lambs this year has been heavier than in 1926.

J. E. Keith.

OREGON

It has been too cool for alfalfa and many meadows are grassy and weedy, because of slow alfalfa growth. The first alfalfa cutting is well under way in the milder sections. Pastures and native meadows are doing well. Live stock are making satisfactory gains but shearing in the higher counties has been delayed by cold, wet weather. Sheep are mostly on the move to summer ranges; some early lambs have been marketed. Some alfalfa was frozen in higher elevations. Pastures in southern counties are remaining green later than usual. Sheep shearing is practically completed, though delayed by inclement weather.

Dayville

Spring feed is short this year and about a month late. We had very cold north winds during the early part of May, but it is warmer now. On account of the short feed and the cold nights, our lambing losses have been heavy.

No wool sales nor transactions in old ewes have come to my attention, but a few sales of yearling ewes, shorn, have been reported at from \$10 to \$10.50 per head. Feeder lambs have been contracted at nine to 9½ cents and mixed ewes and wethers at ten to 10½ cents.

The coyotes are not so very bad this spring, but there is still enough of them left to cause annoyance.

James Cant.

North Powder

We have had unusually cold weather during May, with much wind and a few rains. Range feed, of course, has been slow in growing, but there will be plenty of it. Heavier losses than usual at lambing time are reported and it is estimated that the crop will be about 25 per cent short in comparison with last year.

One band of good woolled ewes with lambs sold here recently at \$14.00 per ewe and older ewes with lambs have brought \$12.00. Woolled yearlings are

bringing \$12.00 a head. Wool transactions have been made recently on a 27 to 30-cent basis, and the feeder end of the lamb crop is being contracted at from 10½ to 11 cents.

Oscar Jacobsen.

Heppner

We had rather cold and unseasonable weather during May and the spring feed is somewhat backward (hurt by frost in some sections), but plentiful. Prices being paid for wool lately range from 24 cents to 30 cents, according to quality. Wool estimated to shrink around 72 per cent is going at 24 cents; that with a shrinkage of 69 per cent is getting 27 cents; and thirty cents is being paid for wools shrinking around 68 per cent.

No contracting is being done on lambs, but ten cents has been offered for wether lambs. Our lamb yield is about the same as last year, possibly a little better in some sections. I believe the loss at lambing time was a little less than in 1926. Shorn yearlings have recently changed hands at \$10 to \$11 a head.

W. B. Barratt & Son.

WASHINGTON

Generally through the month meadows, pastures and ranges made slow growth for the want of warmth, and in the eastern portion, also for the want of moisture at times. But as the month closed conditions had become ideal for hay and pastures. The first harvesting of alfalfa was hampered, however, by the lack of sunshine, sunshine and warmth being needed for most crops. Range cattle were in good condition, having gained satisfactorily in flesh. Meadows and ranges are excellent at Laurier, but meadows have not grown so well at Tonasket. Irrigated meadows are excellent at Wenatchee, and ranges are good.

Grand Dalles

The lambing season this year has been exceptionally cold and disagreeable and we figure that on an average the number of lambs raised will be ten to fifteen per cent short of 1926. Our losses we estimate as being ten per cent heavier. Range feed is good now (May 24), but it was about a month later this year.

The last wool sales reported in this section were at 25 to 30 cents; shorn yearlings have been bought at \$10 to \$11 a head; and feeder lambs have been contracted at 10½ cents.

M. A. Leonardo.

Prosser

Our lamb crop is about ten per cent short, but its quality is good. The shortage is to be accounted for in the heavier losses at lambing time, which were due in part to the long feeding period last winter, which hit the aged ewes severely.

There is plenty of good feed on the spring range, but it has been held back somewhat by the cool weather. The mountain ranges are reported as being a month later, but the condition of the feed below is balancing the situation.

Prices ranging from 25 to 28 cents have taken clips estimated to shrink from 60 to 69 per cent within the past few weeks. Shorn yearlings have changed hands at \$11, and feeder lambs have been tied up for fall delivery at ten and eleven cents.

Willis Mercer.

CALIFORNIA

Cool weather occurred frequently. Rains were rather heavy in the northern portion, but more were needed farther south. High winds in central valleys were detrimental to crops. Ranges are doing well in northern counties, but in the central and southern portions they have become dry and have turned brown, though there is plenty of dry feed. Live stock are thus in good condition throughout the state. Some slight losses of hay occurred during the rainy weather of the middle and northern portions. Cattle are fat in Humboldt County.

NEVADA

Ranges are in fair to good condition, rains having been timely, though not quite adequate in many places. Cattle and sheep are doing well. Shearing is nearly completed and the crop of lambs is satisfactory, having suffered little weather inclemency. The growth of alfalfa has been rather slow because of cold weather; and some fields were damaged by frost. A

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Making Grazing Lands More Productive

By C. L. Forsling, Director
Great Basin Experiment Station, Ephraim, Utah



THE WORK OF A GOOD HERDER

Anyone familiar with live stock production in the West must be impressed with the increasing number and diversity of problems confronting the industry. Instead of becoming simpler, the industry calls for increasing skill in management in all of its phases, in order that production return a profit to the individual operator. Not the least of these problems has to do with the management and use of grazing lands.

The sheep industry is essentially one of converting the native forage that grows on the range into the marketable products, mutton and wool. The range feed may be likened to the raw material, the breeding herd to the manufacturing plant, and the lambs and wool are the products of the year's operation. The grazing lands are the foundation or the basis upon which this industry is built.

The best information available shows that approximately 70 per cent of the feed utilized by live stock in the eleven western states is native range forage or pasture. For sheep alone, the portion of the feed furnished by grazing is probably higher since sheep can use the desert winter ranges to better advantage than can cattle.

In large measure the future welfare of the industry, and of individual operators, is bound to depend upon how well the productivity of these grazing lands is maintained, and how efficiently the feed produced is utilized. It is obvious that the industry can not continue successfully unless an abundant supply of relatively cheap range feed is available. There are two main factors which have tended to make the grazing problems more acute. The first is diminished area of range land.

When the West was first settled, practically the entire land area was available for grazing. As farming of one kind or another increased, much of this grazing land was eliminated for range use, thus concentrating grazing on the remaining land of no value for farming.

The second factor to increase the demand for the range has been overgrazing, and subsequent decline in carrying capacity. This is especially true of the open public domain, but applies also more or less to private lands and national forest ranges. Wherever this decline in productivity has taken place, more area is now required for the same number of stock than formerly. These conditions

have tended to increase the demand for range with the result that competition has tended to increase the price of land, and the amount of feeding, and decrease the quality of the range. Thus the cost of production has been forced upward.

The Source of a Greater Forage Supply

With all of the available range area now being used up to or beyond the full extent of its sustained yield, it is obvious that one operator can not increase the range forage supply needed for his herds by expanding his range area, except at the expense of another operator. Still an ample supply of range forage remains absolutely essential for continued production. It is impractical to increase hay or concentrate feeding to take the place of any deficiency in range because feedings runs into money too rapidly. But one avenue is left for maintaining an ample supply of grazing; namely, range management to maintain or increase wherever possible the productivity of the range area, and at the same time obtain maximum use of the forage each year. The problem arises immediately of how this may best be accomplished.

For the past twenty years, a small

amount of study has been devoted to range problems by various agencies, and much has also been gained by the experience of operators in the industry. The results accomplished to date, however, are small compared with the magnitude of the problems involved, and there is a real need for more study. More general application of the knowledge already gained would assist materially in solving some of the difficulties encountered in production, and at the same time maintain the productivity of the range for future use. Moreover they point the way toward the benefits that may be derived from more extensive study of the problems.

One of the fundamentals in the maintenance and best use of the range forage crop already established, is to stock within the limits of the grazing capacity, or in other words, not to overwork the land. It is a dangerous conception to consider the native range forage as an inexhaustible natural resource that will continue to produce regardless of the treatment it receives. Correct determination of the carrying capacity is not an easy matter. Overstocking must be avoided, and at the same time, it would not be wise to stock too conservatively and waste any considerable portion of the usable forage. The general tendency, however, is to overstock, and reduce the carrying capacity. Deterioration under moderate overgrazing often takes place so slowly that it is difficult to observe. Once it has occurred, however, many years of careful management are required to restore the range. As a matter of range protection, it is a safer plan to stock a little below what appears on casual observation to be the full grazing capacity in average years.

Range Improvements With Use

Conservative stocking, however, is not the only means of insuring an abundant forage supply, although where ranges are overstocked, the obvious thing to do is reduce the stock to what the range will support. Man can work with nature to advantage to obtain maximum forage production, and at the same time secure a fuller use of the forage than would otherwise be possible. This may be done by adjusting grazing at certain times of the year to meet the growth requirements of the vegetation.

The early part of the growing season in the spring is one of the most critical times in forage growth. At that time, the plants are weak and must draw upon reserve strength to begin growth. If grazing starts each year as soon as the grass begins to green up in the spring, there is danger of exhausting this reserve strength before the vegetation is well established, and the plants are materially weakened. If this practice is continued year after year, much of the better vegetation eventually dies out, there is a decline in carrying capacity and growth starts later than when the vegetation is strong and healthy. If grazing is delayed a few weeks after growth starts in the spring, there is less danger of injury to the vegetation, and ordinary use may be continued after that time. Another growth requirement of range vegetation is to provide for an occasional seed crop. Range plants require occasional reseeding to improve and maintain the stand. Some plants live for many years, but there is a certain amount of mortality, especially under full grazing, and new plants must be established to take the place of those that die.

A plan of deferring and rotating grazing in the use of lands has been worked out to meet this situation. It provides for delaying grazing on a part of the range unit until the seed of the grasses and other forage plants have matured, and dropped onto the ground. Then the area is grazed to utilize the feed and trample the seed into the soil, so that nothing is wasted. By applying this treatment first on one portion of a range unit and then on another, until the whole unit has been covered, a range may be reseeded once every three to five years.

Proper stocking, delaying grazing until the range is ready, and the application of deferred and rotation grazing are three of the fundamentals in maintaining the natural productivity of grazing lands. There are still other treatments that will assist to the same end, but these three will serve to illustrate how the native forage supply may be perpetuated and what can be expected by going further into the problem through experimental study or otherwise.

Artificial Reseeding

High hopes have been held out for artificial reseeding or the planting of grasses and other forage plants as a means of range improvement. This is undoubtedly an extensive field if all of the facts and conditions under which to plant were known. Some experimental work has been done with this problem, but the results so far show that the possibilities with known species are limited only to the most favorable growing conditions, and such conditions are not very general. Even where success in planting has resulted, the value of the increased gain in carrying capacity has not always been commensurate with the cost. After all experimental work along this line has been very limited in comparison to what there appears to be in this method of range improvement, and more work of this character is needed. So far only the tame grasses have been tried out, but very little has been done toward adapting native grasses to this use, importing drought resistant species from foreign countries or developing new species by plant breeding or selection.

Range Management and the Cost of Production

The management of grazing lands to maintain them in a state of high productivity in itself does not solve all of the problems of range use. Of equal importance, is obtaining the most efficient utilization of the forage once it has been produced. Open herding and bedding out systems of grazing are good examples of improved utilization, with which the industry is quite familiar. These systems result not only in preventing injury to the range, but also in a higher carrying capacity, and in heavier weights or earlier maturing of lambs, and better condition of the sheep in general. There is room for more general application of these systems as well as working out additional refinements that will result in less waste and more efficient utilization. Yet, little more than a start has been made in determining the best methods of grazing and conditions of use of the range. A thorough study of the problem might lead to very important developments in range use and more economical production.

An idea of what better range management means in the way of more economical production to the average range operator can be obtained by tying it in with various items of production. The cost of production report for 1925 issued by the Idaho wool growers offers a good basis for this purpose.

The first and biggest item of production cost is \$2.93 for feed. This varies with length of the feeding season, and the condition of the sheep when they go into the feed lot. Sheep are usually put on feed when weather conditions force it or when feed on the fall range gives out. In 1926,

when they go into the feed lot. More feed will be required to bring a ewe through in the same condition by spring if she is thin on entering the feed lot, than if she is in good shape. The condition of the ewe in the fall depends upon how well she has fared during the grazing season, which in turn depends upon the quantity and quality of range feed that was available.

In another place in this report is shown an investment of \$7.60 per ewe for land. Part of this, perhaps most of it, is for grazing land. That means taxes and interest must be paid for this land, and

able to range conditions would reduce the total loss charge. The size of the lamb crop and the weight of value of the ewes' fleeces also are directly affected by the condition of the feed on the ranges, and in the interest of economy these returns must be secured principally from range forage rather than from over expensive hand feeding.

Thus it may be seen that profit in production is directly dependent upon the condition and the character of use of grazing lands. A little reduction in the cost here or a slight increase in the quantity or quality of the product, there, thru



A section of the experimental nursery at the Great Basin Range Experiment Station. Here, various grasses and other forage plants are tested with respect to their ability to withstand different methods of grazing.



Field Day at the Great Basin Range Experiment Station on the Manti National Forest in central Utah. Each year a field meeting is held to give stockmen the opportunity to see and discuss the experimental work in better range management.

Photos by U. S. Forest Service.

the feed gave out earlier than usual, and many sheep were forced to the feed lot before the usual date. This entailed an extra feeding bill. Had the fall ranges been up to maximum in carrying capacity, and stocked in the average year so that there would have been a small margin of feed available for dry years, and for protection against overstocking, such earlier feeding would not have been necessary. This was shown by what happened at the U. S. Sheep Experiment Station at Dubois. The sheep there were kept on the fall range later than average, in 1926, and little extra feeding was necessary. This saved about 50 cents a head for every month that the animals were kept on the range after many other outfits had gone to the feed lot. This saving was made possible by having built up the range and stocking it on a basis that left a margin of feed for the dry year.

The amount of feeding necessary during the winter depends to a considerable extent upon the condition of the animals

this makes up part of the 23 cents a head, total tax charge, and 93 cents a head, which is only part of the actual interest on the investment required for each ewe. If an operator improves his range to where less area is required for a ewe, he has placed himself in a position to reduce the amount of land needed, and made possible a saving in taxes and interest.

Next there is an item of 99 cents per ewe for losses, the average annual loss being 9.4 per cent of the total breeding herd. These may be considered "natural" losses and "unavoidable", yet to what extent are they really unavoidable? Part of them may be due to disease, feed lot losses, predatory animals, etc. Others of them are related to range conditions. Losses from poisonous plants for example are often the result of too closely grazed range. Losses at lambing are partly due to weak condition of the ewes, a direct result of inadequate feed on the range prior to and at lambing time. Reducing or eliminating the losses attribut-

the application of better range management will soon mount up in the long run. Enough reduction in the costs and increases in the returns to increase the present spread between these two sides of the ledger by \$1.00 to \$1.50, should not be difficult to accumulate, and still it would almost double the present profit in the sheep business as shown by the cost of production report.

Land Control Needed for Improvement.

A possible difficulty in the application of better range management may appear to lie in the fact that the average operator does not have adequate security in tenure of the range land that he uses. This is true in so far as the open public domain is concerned. In that case, under present circumstances, there is no incentive to protect or improve the range since one man's efforts may become another man's gain. This, however, is only an argument

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Further Remarks on Wool Marketing

In the May issue of the Wool Grower several officials of wool growers' associations expressed themselves in regard to the present methods of marketing wool and made suggestions as to how improvements might be effected. In continuation of this discussion, statements from the presidents of the state associations of Idaho and New Mexico and the secretary of the Park County Wool Growers Association of Colorado are printed below:

David Farr of New Mexico

The question of marketing wool is of course of great interest to every sheepman. 'Orderly' and 'systematic' marketing is a catch phrase that we will all fall for, but before we endorse any change of a radical nature, I think we should look well into all sides of the proposed new method.

The question in my mind is whether or not the responsible commission houses already established in the big eastern wool selling centers do not have already the very facilities for the proper and economic handling of wools that we want, and whether we cannot get our wools handled through and by them just as efficiently as we may by establishing or endorsing some new and untried, experimental system. Every man is in business for the money he can make, and I question whether we can get competent and efficient men to manage cooperative wool pools who are without the same human desire and motive. In other words we stand to jump from the frying pan into the fire by endorsing a new untried scheme.

If the established commission men are honest we have just what we need to market our wools in a systematic and orderly manner, and without the necessity of binding ourselves for a term of years, which might be fatal if the agency were either inefficient or dishonest. We can quit an incompetent or dishonest commission house at once, but if we 'sign up' in some pool or agency for a term of years, we are tied and must keep paying, not only possibly for a fictitious service, but usually a penalty as well.

It is so much easier to criticize any established order than to suggest something constructive, but I think we should keep our minds open to any logical, constructive plan.

T. C. Bacon of Idaho

I believe the way to obtain the market price for wool is to sell it on a primary market. When the grower sells at home he is in very much the same position that he would be in selling lambs if he put them in the corrals at the loading points and then sat on the fence and offered to sell them to the highest bidder.

If the majority of the wools are shipped to the primary markets of Boston and Portland, the few buyers who still roam this territory will give very close to the same net prices that the grower could get if he shipped, which will be a great advantage both to the grower who sells at home and the one who ships.

The value of wools is determined in the main on the basis of shrinkage. For instance, if the value of wool in Boston is \$1.00 a scoured pound and your wool shrinks 65 per cent, it will be worth 35 cents a pound in the grease; but if it shrinks only 62 per cent, it will be worth 38 cents a pound in the grease. The warehouse companies at the primary markets will determine the actual shrinkage of the wools they handle and their various grades and will sell the wool on its actual value instead of at the lump price for the district, as is the case now.

Warehouse charges worry some growers. They think they can save by storing locally—they probably can. There is a cheaper way than that: Store it in the barn or machine shed. It won't cost anything there. But what buyers will see the clip? How much selling competition will there be? How safe will the wool be?

The amount of charges is immaterial. The net obtained by the grower is the chief concern. There will be no bids on wool stored in barns; there will be few bids and very little buying on wool stored locally; but there will be many dealers and mills competing against each other on wool shipped to primary markets.

K. W. Chalmers of Colorado

The time of year is now at hand when those growers who have not made pre-shearing contracts of wool are wondering somewhat feverishly what they will be offered for their clips. Expenses are heavy, the bank balance is somewhat low, and a great many growers are half-way decided in their own minds to take the best offer made regardless of whether or not their best judgment warrants the sale at this time. In other words pressing need of cash money virtually forces the sale of their product.

The above statement is true not only of this year but many years past and although growers are becoming more and more disgusted with this system, no logical solutions of the problem have been offered other than pooling their wools, selling directly to the manufacturer, or by selling cooperatively through local or state associations. The grower has long recognized that the speculators buying his wool do so on a good margin of profit and yet these selfsame buyers have been practically the only means of financial aid at a time when money is badly needed. However since the formation of the Federal Intermediate Credit Banks in 1923 this situation has been changed and financial aid is now available to the grower, thus making it possible for him to consign his wool to a recognized selling agency and obtain the full market value for his product, which is sold directly to the manufacturer.

In the opinion of the writer cooperative marketing or pooling of wool clips is rapidly coming into prominence and will in the future be largely the means for the disposal of wool. Selling of wool by these methods has the following advantages:

1. Complete separation of financing and selling of the product.
2. The product is sold on the wool market at its current market value.
3. The grower is not forced to sell when the market is palpably "off."

No one need think that the above system is a panacea for all of the evils of wool marketing, but statistics show that, taken over a period of years, those growers who have consigned to a reputable, recognized selling agency have received more per pound than those who have

sold at home to the speculative buyers. If this method is followed time and experience will iron out many of the wrinkles toward the perfecting of a more orderly disposal of a commodity which runs into millions of dollars annually.

PRELIMINARY REPORT OF CALIFORNIA RAM SALE

Nine hundred thirty-five rams were sold at the California Ram Sale, held at Davis, Calif., June 7th and 8th, at an average price of \$53.08, as against an average of \$50.13 made in the 1926 sale. From seven to eight hundred people were in attendance and all the rams consigned to the sale were sold.

The Hampshire and Rambouillet breeds tied for the sale's top—\$400. The Hampshire top was consigned by Frank Brown & Sons of Carlton, Oregon, and purchased by Hammond & Sons of Merrill, Oregon, while Bullard Bros. of Woodland, Calif., sold the \$400 Rambouillet to Wm. Briggs & Son of Dixon, Calif. Fifteen Rambouillet stud rams sold at an average of \$158.66 and the range rams of this breed averaged \$42.54. An average of \$164.53 was made on sixteen Hampshire stud rams and 391 range rams obtained an average of \$46.74. Sixteen single stud rams in the Shropshire division brought an average of \$91.87 and 171 range rams averaged \$40.09.

One hundred of the Spencer Ranch Company's (Cranmore, Calif.) Romeldales sold at an average of \$57.90; fifty Suffolk-Hampshire crossbreds went at \$57.25 each and eighteen Panamas made an average of \$54.44.

IDAHO HAMPSHIRE BREEDERS MEET

Well attended meetings of Hampshire breeders were held under the auspices of the Idaho Hampshire Association at Caldwell, Twin Falls, and Rupert, during the week of May 16. Mrs. Minnie W. Miller, president of the American Hampshire Breeders Association, presided at all of the gatherings.

Means of maintaining the general high standard of the Hampshire breed in Idaho and marketing problems were actively discussed by all the breeders. At each of the meetings the following resolution per-

taining to the general aim of the Idaho Hampshire breeders was adopted:

"Members of the Idaho Hampshire Association agree to cull all their inferior stuff, and to sell for breeding purposes only such sheep as will keep up the high standard and excellent reputation of Idaho Hampshires."

At each meeting also breeders furnished lists of the Hampshires they were offering for sale and it was decided to advertise them in the Breeders' Gazette and the Country Gentleman. For all sales made through the association a fee of fifty cents per head is to be collected from the sellers.

The desirability of introducing a system of grading all purebred flocks was considered at Twin Falls, and also the appointment of a committee to work out the standard or "true type" Hampshire, similar to that evolved by the Holstein cattle men.

A HOOK FOR CARRYING LAMBS

Young lambs can now be carried much easier from the drop band to the lambing shed since Mr. Frank Oliver of John Day, Oregon, has invented a new and extremely useful "lamb carrier."



The Oliver hook for carrying lambs.

Mr. Oliver is a practical sheep man, who with his brother operates a large sheep ranch in the John Day Valley of Grant County, Oregon. They have been practicing early shed lambing for twenty years and for many years followed the common practice of carrying the "green lambs" by the feet to the lambing shed, and getting the mother ewe to follow as best she would. About six years ago Mr. Frank Oliver devised a rough form of the hook that he has recently patented. Each year some slight changes and improvements have been made. Now this "lamb carrier" is used to pick up these lambs when they are either lying down or standing up. When they are being carried by the hook, they are in a very natural position, about the same as if they were walking, and the mother ewe follows from the drop band to the lambing shed much better than when the lamb is being carried by the feet.

On the Oliver Brothers' ranch where they have made very high percentages for a number of years, these hooks are now just as necessary a part of the lambing equipment as docking irons or feed troughs.

The "hook" has many other advantages for shed lambing as it is just the thing to catch a ewe under the neck to back her around from one pen to another or catch a sheep for the many other necessary purposes.

The lower illustration shows the "lamb carrier" in actual use.

D. E. Richards.

EARLY IDAHO LAMBS

The first Idaho range lambs to be shipped this year were loaded around May 20, about a week later than last year on account of later feed. Aside from the variation of the season each year sees Idaho lambs loading a little earlier and the end is not yet.

There is no reason why Idahos cannot be marketed as early as Californias. While there is much talk generally as to the big crop and early run of California lambs, a good bit of this is pure 'bunk.' It is usually well along in April before such movement gets underway. In many parts of Idaho, ewes and lambs are out on the range by March 5 and where such

is the case, lambs should be ready to ship by late April, if they were born early enough. Each year the rams go in a little earlier. In my judgment in less than three years, some of our range outfits will be lambing in December. I weighed an accidental December lamb this March and found its weight to be 65 pounds. Grain and hay will fatten any sheep or lamb more quickly than grass and the only excuse for using grass at all is to reduce expense. Our farmers would long since have started December lambing, but ewes held on the farm are late breeders, so early lambs are not possible with them. In the mountains our ewes will breed just as well in August as in September.

Bliss, Idaho

S. W. McClure.

CORN BELT ATTITUDE TOWARD FEEDER LAMBS

Sitting tight is the attitude of the corn-belt farmer feeder to date. A group gathered in the Chicago exchange building late in May discussed the situation from much the same angle as did the Colorado folk a year ago when they took the position that whenever a feeder paid \$10 on the range for lambs he, metaphorically at least, threw money to the little birds.

"We intend to wait and see if we have any feed next fall," remarked an Indianian gloomily.

"Let the Colorado feeder gamble this year if he is in that mood," asserted a Michigander. "We are playing a safe game."

"I haven't any of the same kind of money I loaned my people to buy lambs with last season," insisted an Illinois banker who usually feeds several thousand himself.

"If corn is a dollar or better next fall, you won't be able to converse with me on the subject of lambs," chirped an Iowa man. "Every bushel of corn I grow will go to the elevator."

But they were all keenly interested in the subject, particularly when a Billings, Montana, man joined the group to impart the information of serious mortality among new lambs as a result of April and May snowstorms.

"That's the bunk," exclaimed the In-

diana man. "We hear it every year about this time. What do you say the loss is?"

"About twenty-five per cent."

"Why not put it at 50 per cent and send out a good story. You can't sell me any 11-cent lambs on the strength of that yarn."

Then the trio went down to the sheep house to buy a load of thin lambs each. "Gotta have a few to eat my grass, but I'm not plunging," exclaimed the Indianian, paying \$13.75 for a load of California springers.

However, little correspondence is coming into commission houses on the subject of feeding lambs. The California run had a short feeder end this year so that it was readily absorbed at \$12.75 @ 13.75, but this trade affords no criterion of what will happen when the main crop of western lambs shows up. That it will be a short crop, measured by last season's volume, is consensus of opinion, as there has undoubtedly been considerable loss during and since lambing in Wyoming and Montana, owing to bad weather. At this writing no one is in a position to forecast what fall feed conditions in the corn belt will be; the outcome of a backward corn crop which is sending prices soaring, or the summer fat lamb market will determine actions to be taken. The season is starting at a lower level of prices than a year ago and there is an expanding supply of native lambs to reckon with, all the corn-belt states reporting increases. Native lambs are usually pricebreakers and they may exercise an influence in determining prices from August on, as a high summer fat lamb market invariably puts a prop under feeder trade; a low set of quotations exerts the reverse influence.

Swift is credited with taking a bullish view of the prospect, assuming that money has conversational power, that concern having made extensive contracts for fall delivery in various parts of the West. The last "buy" embraced 50,000 head in the Livingston section of Montana at 10½ cents, and good lambs come from that locality. Colorado, having acquired the bulk of the lambs it can finish next winter is sitting complacently, apparently

oblivious of corn-belt needs or intentions. Present indications are that little will be done until the western gathering season begins.

Summer lamb feeding, recently considered impracticable, is now a definitely established custom, but it is a sphere for the specialist and unlike winter finishing, ill-adapted to farm conditions. The innovation had its inception at Omaha several years ago when California delivered a surplus of thin spring lambs at that market. Experiments demonstrated that they could be sheared, put into sheds, and fattened with a temperature ranging as high as 100 degrees. The standard ration is 50 per cent corn, 20 per cent oil cake, hay and molasses. By locating feed yards adjacent to the market, driving in is possible, effecting an economy of \$75 to \$80 per car. The other economic angle is the salvage of a large number of half-fat lambs that reach the market from distant breeding grounds that would otherwise realize little money.

No prediction concerning feeding lamb prices the rest of the season is safe, unless it be that no bargain sale will be set up. There is a potential demand that will attract orders on any sign of weakness.

J. E. Poole.

SHEEP IMPORTS PROBABLE

Importations of live stock from England and Scotland, which have been prohibited in recent years by the U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry, seem likely to be renewed.

The British authorities have been conducting an aggressive campaign of slaughter of all herds affected with or exposed to foot-and-mouth disease. Late in May it was reported that no new cases had been discovered since April 6. If there are no further outbreaks the U. S. Federal authorities contemplate issuing permits for importation of animals leaving British ports after June 6.

Several American and Canadian breeders have made arrangements for selections from British flocks. In case these plans can be carried out some of the best rams from English Hampshire and Suffolk flocks will be offered in the National Ram Sale, August 29-30-31.

CANADIAN BREEDERS FAVOR OPEN-FACED RAMS

The Wool Grower received under date of May 25, the following communication from the Commissioner of Grazing of the Province of British Columbia, Canada:

"I shall appreciate it if you can inform me who, among the breeders of Rambouillet rams in the western states, is making a specialty of bare-faced rams. The range sheep business of British Columbia is on the steady increase and many inquiries are being filed regarding suitable Merino rams, the Rambouillet preferred, but there is a reluctance on the part of range men to purchase rams with the blind characteristics too pronounced."

Victoria, B. C.

Thos. MacKenzie.

THE WOOL WAREHOUSES OF TEXAS

The wool warehouses in Texas are in reality banking and commission houses, headed by the most successful and reliable sheepmen in the section. The Wool Growers Central Storage Company of San Angelo was organized by growers in February, 1909, in response to a demand for a sales medium that would place the buyers in competition with each other. Other houses have since arisen over the country, at Del Rio, Kerrville, Sanderson, Mertzon, Menard and other points.

When the Wool Growers Central Storage Company was first organized, only producers could hold stock, but the stock has been sold by the original owners until now bankers and business men own it as well as the producers. There are now ninety-six shareholders of the \$100,000 capital stock. This is true of the other warehouses, except that the Charles Schreiner house at Kerrville is privately owned by the Schreiner interests.

All of the warehouses have tremendous storage space. The San Angelo house uses 55,000 square feet of space and handled in 1926 the record amount of 7,000,000 pounds of wool.

Sales are held in May, June or July and again in November. The fall wool is sold in carload lots as is the eight-months' spring wool at times; the twelve-month's wool is sold by itself. In the

sealed bid sales the wool is classified by lot, sample bags shown the buyers and they then write out their bids in secret and present them to a sales committee appointed by the warehouse. The committee considers the bid and, if the owner is present, confers with him. If the grower does not want to sell, the clip is not sold, but usually the advice of the committee is taken. If the buyers' bids are not satisfactory, all bids are called off and another sale is announced or the wool is sold by private treaty.

Only about 7,500,000 pounds of wool have been contracted this year out of an estimated 30,000,000 clip, so as usual the warehouses will get the long end of it this year. The warehouse charge for storage,

insurance, and selling usually amounts to about 2½ cents per pound, and at present the Wool Growers Central Storage Company of San Angelo has about \$1,700,000 in loans and the other houses have proportionate amounts. Annual dividends of about ten per cent have been paid by these storage houses.

The warehouse system seems bound to stay in this section. The growers are in favor of it, as over a period of years better prices have been obtained than by contracting. However, they would like to see better cooperation among the various warehouses and a cessation of the bickering that is continually going on between them.

San Angelo, Texas.

Sam Ashburn.

Face Covering in the Development of Rambouillet Types

By Wilhelm Carl

So much real good has been brought out in the discussion of the above topic in the National Wool Grower, that I feel it my duty to apologize for trying to add any more. I have, however, been asked to criticize the various ideas presented, of course, not at all in a fault-finding way, but for the purpose of getting at the bottom of these things, to find perchance the causes and "the method in this madness", if there be any.

"My mind is open" rather in sympathy with the "utility" point of view presented, but since there has been some opposition, I feel that in consideration of it, the historical phase of the matter, which has so far been left out, should be looked into. In other words, as the symptoms have been stated, the case should be diagnosed before attempting the remedy. Mr. Wilson suggests that a sheep with a covered face is a puzzle in the showing; Dr. McClure asserts and proves by his own experience that "wool blind" sheep are a nuisance in the feed yard; while the Dubois Experiment Station men show with indisputable facts and figures that they are an economic failure.

On the other hand, our old friend Dwight Lincoln seems to favor covered faces, and while I do not exactly agree

with him, yet I can sympathize with him because, alas with him, it's a case of an unforgotten, ineradicable first and only love. Sad, yes, even worse than the measles, but it's true, anyhow I am almost willing to swear to it. He spent his boyhood days on his father's farm among the then famous beauties from the old "Bailleau" (Illiers) and "Sorreau" flocks brought over from France in the days of "auld lang syne." They stole his heart and have kept it ever since. Years after when von Homeyer's massive blocky German Rambouillets, with their broad woolly faces, made their appearance at the Chicago Worlds Fair in 1893, our friend's love for "hirsute fronts" took another turn. He got everlastingly smitten on "True Type", "Bismarck" and "Hugo", that paragon of Rambouillet type, whose well covered faces have been the models for imitators ever since.

Nor is that all. Nearly thirty years ago (about 1900 to be exact) his life's journey brought him to Leutewitz and face to face with Otto Steiger's famous sheep. Well, to make a long story short, he came, he saw—but they conquered—though to this day I cannot tell whether it was the beady brown eyes of the Leutewitzer bucks winking at him through

their "covered" lashes, or the brown beads in the Meissener Bock Beer that finished his fate!

So much for current history, perhaps a little of the ancient kind may not be amiss. Some of the oldest records on sheep and sheep industry are found in the Bible, but in spite of diligent search I have not been able to discover any definite direct evidence of whether the old Jewish shepherds preferred open or covered faces. However, it seems to me that the sheep which Jacob, that most expert of them all, got from his father-in-law Laban could not have been wool blind; otherwise they could not have seen the peeled sticks that Jacob placed in the water troughs for them to see. (Gen. ch. XXX). It may also be presumed that the same arguments presented in favor of open-faced range sheep in our days would apply with equal force in those olden times. There is however stronger proof in favor of open faces of sheep in the monuments of profane history. I find in "Settegast-Die-Tierzucht" (5th German Ed. of 1888 Taf. 1.-p. 65) an excellent lithograph representing an ancient Egyptian ram copied from a monument more than two thousand years old. It shows an open face.

Coming down the chronological events of the ages, Grecian writers tell us a lot about sheep and golden fleeces and the like, but we are not yet sure whether the famous "Argonaut" story was merely a white lie or a barefaced deception. Unfortunately the members of that expedition did not have any Kodaks so we can't tell.

In Roman times, while general references to sheep are numerous and some of them very interesting, especially as far as the origin of the Merino is concerned, yet no positive information is available, as far as I know at least, regarding our present subject. To be sure the Roman writers were very open-minded. Martial for instance practiced frankness to the point of disgust, yet even he leaves our question unanswered, although he in connection with Columella furnishes material for hypothetical speculation along our line and in favor of the barefaced side of the controversy. The speculation is my own and it's this way: Both those writers lived during the first century of the Chris-

tian Era and both mention the sheep of Pollentia, a locality in the present Italian province of Piedmont, which adjoins Lombardia. The latter province has now, and has had from time immemorial a native breed of sheep known all over northern Italy as "razza Bergamasca", known in France as "Race piemontaise" and in Switzerland as "Bergamaskerschaf." From my own observations of this sheep and from what I can learn from various French, Swiss and German writers on sheep, I am convinced that it is the modern representative of the old "Pollentia" breed mentioned by Columella and Martial and as it has not changed its type so far as known since the thirteenth century and has an open face, we must conclude that the old "Pollentia" had the same character.

Before passing on to more modern times it may be of interest to note a very old breed of sheep that has been domesticated in China from the earliest times. The Chinese call it "Yung-ti" or "Yung-tsao." It has no face covering and so far as circumstantial evidence goes, never had any. Another curious thing along this line came to my notice while making investigations in Europe. I examined a lot of antique German prints for fac-simili of sheep, and found many of them dating back as far as the fifteenth century, but not a single one showed any more covering on the head than a tuft on top (what the French call a "chignon").

Much has been said lately about face covering of the Merino and its different types or races. The earliest picture of Merinos that I know of is an oil painting in the Dresden Art Gallery, of which I have a photograph. It shows the Spanish Merino sheep of the earliest importation into Saxony in 1765. Those sheep have no more face covering than the above mentioned "chignon." There are also extant a number of old illustrations of Merinos, copies of "original" sketches, paintings and the like, most of them of very little merit, but all of them showing open faces. The best picture of that period is that of the Delessert-Dupont ram "Don Pedro" in the "Vermont Sheep Breeders Register", reproduced in Dr. Salmon's "Special Report on the U. S. Sheep Industry", Washington, 1892. Another

cut of the same ram is contained in Henry Stewart's "Domestic Sheep" (Edition of 1898 p. 32). Both show the open face. (By the way "Don Pedro" arrived in the United States on July 16, 1801.) The next oldest pictures of Merinos are the famous aquarelles painted by Marechal and de Wailly in 1801 and 1802. These demonstrate the difference in appearance between the first and second importations of Spanish Merinos to Rambouillet. Mr. Dwight Lincoln has in his possession an aquarelle of a much later date, presented to him by Director Maurice. The animals there may be said to show a transitory type, the faces showing a slight covering, but the eyes and the lachrymal ducts are free. These pictures and others mentioned are supplemented by descriptions of the Spanish, the Rambouillet, the Saxon, the Silesian as well as the American and other types of Merinos of the various periods. First and foremost among them all is that given by Gilbert, professor and assistant director of the veterinary and agricultural school at Alfort near Paris, the man that was instrumental, with Tessier, in saving the flock at Rambouillet from destruction during the revolution and who personally made the selections for the second exportation of Merinos from Spain during 1799 and 1800.

In a memoir which Gilbert edited in the name of a government commission before he went to Spain and which therefore concerned the first importation only, he writes "that the sheep are covered with wool from the eyes to the hoofs." I have translated this sentence from his report, copious extracts of which are contained in Bernardin's book, "La bergerie de Rambouillet et les merinos." (original French edition, Paris 1890). This evidently does not mean that the sheep were wool blind. On the contrary the eyes are excluded from the covering.

The nineteenth century, however, witnessed some very remarkable changes. Behmer, a well known German breeder of sheep, in his "Development of the German Sheep Industry" (contained in Thiel's Report of the German Exhibits at the Worlds Fair in Paris, 1900) mentions three different phases of Merino breeding: The period of fine wool production (fine clothing wool); the period

of mass wool production (so called "stiff" wool); and the period of combing wool production (so called "Kammwolle"). Each of these in turn extended over a number of years and necessitated certain different types of sheep.

Thus fads and fashions were introduced into the sheep business and some of them have become more or less permanent fixtures. Fine-wooled sheep, such as the Saxonian "Electoral" (Escurials) or the Silesians had rather smooth bodies, bare faces and bare legs. Then when extremely fine wool (such as "Supero Electa plus") fell from grace, the next period demanded a heavy woolled wrinkly sheep, the Saxonian "Negretti," or the Silesian "Infantado," with covered faces and legs woolled to the toes. In some way breeders got the idea that these characteristics were indicative of and essential to the quality of producing lots of heavy wool and it seems to have survived to this day. Whether the facts and arguments produced during the present campaign will be able to change it, remains to be seen.

The third period of production was first inaugurated in France by the creation of a big bodied dual purpose wool and mutton sheep of the Merino combing wool class, such as the Rambouillet began over one hundred years ago and continues. But what changes time has wrought! Among the Rambouillet race alone, the number of types is a conundrum. Some years ago some professorial judges tried to solve it with the first three letters of the alphabet. The result was well nigh disastrous. It might have been better if they had used the whole alphabet from the start. Almost every breeder now has his private stock of models or imitations and either follows his own sweet will or else some of the leading bell wethers that may happen to draw the crowd; and they produce what the crowd wants. Real merit does not count for anything in comparison with real money.

By the way lest I forget, it seems that some of the Wool Grower contributors have even brought their hobbyhorses into the discussion. As to the Black Top matter, some of it ought to be taken "cum grana salis." In the article on



HEADS OF GERMAN AND FRENCH MERINO TYPES
1790 - 1900

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Electoral (medium size) | 6. German Mutton Merino (large) |
| 2. Negretti (short headed, small size) | 7. Chaillonnais (small French metis Merino) |
| 3. Electoral (Silesian, small) | 8. German Combing Wool Sheep (medium size) |
| 4. Soissonais (French mutton Merino, large) | 9. German Combing Wool Rambouillet—Boldeback-Type. |
| 5. Rambouillet (large) | |

Black Tops some stress is put on the immaculate purity of Humphreyan descent of these sheep. Assertions of that kind are made so frequently that they become painfully tiresome to one familiar with the history of domestic sheep. The case at hand brings up anew the now age-old matter of the original development and dispersion of the W. R. Dickinson or Dickinson and Wells sheep. The question is too involved to interest present-day western sheepmen greatly, but an exhaustive and impartial study of the whole matter has convinced me that these fine-sounding claims of wonderfully preserved strains of blood are not so significant nor so accurate as sometimes is represented. I hope I am not misunderstood. In my estimation, the Black Tops are just as good as any other breed of sheep in their place, no better or worse. My present object in this case is merely to combat, if I can, the aristocratic notions concerning the "blue bloodedness" that some breeders think should be emphasized on every possible occasion. I have no desire to pursue this matter further and sincerely hope that in the fu-

ture, breeders may have something better to advance in favor of their sheep than the worm-eaten theory of their "immaculate conception."

HYBRID LAMBS

Several Utah sheepmen who use the winter range down near the Colorado River, in the country known as "Under the Ledge," have had a little spice added to their lambing this year by the advent of a few hybrid lambs, crosses between the Big Horn, or mountain sheep, and the domestic sheep. Hyrum and Karl Seely of Castledale and Ernest Madsen of Manti each had a few of these hybrids and are making an extra effort to raise them. Frenchmen who have wintered on the same range claim that they have sometimes gotten thirty or forty of these lambs, but have never been successful in raising them beyond a few weeks.

Some of the lambs are light brown in color with white spots; others are white with brown spots. They are bob-tailed and have heads shaped like the lambs of the mountain sheep.

J. W. Humphries.

Sheep Affairs in Australia and New Zealand

By A. C. Mills.

Melbourne, April 16, 1927

A number of matters of vital interest to sheepmen were discussed at the annual meeting of the Graziers Association of New South Wales held in Sydney the end of last month. Perhaps the most far-reaching was a proposal that a fund of \$1,000,000 be raised by voluntary subscription for the purpose of scientific research. It was suggested that part of the income be devoted to retaining the services of a scientist of standing who would apply himself entirely to research concerning the industry. Money was also to be made available for training scientific workers. The proposal met with warm approval and was referred to the Federal conference set down for June. If supported then it probably will be decided to raise the money by means of a voluntary levy of so much on every bale of wool sent into store. As the annual clip runs well over 2,000,000 bales, the call would not be heavy on any individual.

I think it safely can be said that the proposal will receive the strong support of the great bulk of wool growers when it comes to be submitted to them in concrete form. The influence of feeding on production of wool, to mention one problem alone, has lately received wide recognition in Australia, though it has never been scientifically studied. In view of recent developments in manuring and seeding pastures it is very necessary that this phase of the industry should be studied.

Another question discussed at the Sydney conference was the marketing of low grade wools, which it is felt frequently realize less than their intrinsic value. It was proposed that a wool pool be formed to handle such wools. An advisory committee was appointed to consider details.

Apart from a short series in Sydney after Easter and oddment sales in various centers, the 1926-27 Australian wool selling season has finished. Up to the end of March a matter of 1,741,417 bales was disposed of by public auction on account of this season, and also 488,955 bales

which had been carried forward from 1925-26, a not inconsiderable record, especially as the market maintained a steady level throughout. As one trade report puts it, the outstanding feature of the latter part of the season's operations was undoubtedly the part played by Japan in the buying room. The demand from this section has been insistent, and has embraced a remarkably wide range of qualities. Her requirements have been such that there can be little doubt that a large export trade in textiles has been established throughout the East in general, the chief of which is with China. From this it is assumed the Japanese demand will be an ever-increasing one, and will continue to be an important factor in Australian markets. Another interesting feature has been the prices that choicest top lots of clips realized. For the first time for many years they have not commanded fancy figures, their clean cost more closely approaching that of wools of similar spinning quality, but less attractive and lacking in style. Spectacular prices for top lots in previous seasons have for the most part been due to American competition.

It is palpably too early to speculate about the next clip, beyond saying that many of the southern districts are becoming dry, and for that reason no notable increase on this season's production is looked for. Judging by the crutching coming into store, it promises to carry a deal of vegetable matter.

Despite the continued dry weather in the south, sheep values do not alter much, though there is little demand for any but fats sufficient to meet local consumption demands. This week good trade description crossbred wethers were fetching from \$4.68 to \$5.52, ditto Merino \$4.32 to \$5.28, and lambs from \$5 to \$5.28 per head in the Melbourne yards. Broken-mouthed ewes (fat) ranged from \$4.32 to \$5, and breeding ewes from \$4.80 to \$6.25 each. Exporters are only operating to a limited extent, and at that to fill contract orders, oversea quotations being generally below local parity.

Wages for shearers, shed hands and station employees in Australia are again before the Federal Arbitration Court, the graziers' associations having applied for a reduction and the Australian Workers Union, as representing the men, for an increase. The present rate for shearing ordinary sheep is \$9.60 per hundred in all states except Queensland and New South Wales, where State awards fix it at \$10.80. The associations are applying for an \$8.40 rate, and the union is modestly demanding \$14.40 per hundred, with a guaranteed weekly wage of \$45.60. The case will be argued before the court in June.

New Zealand reports a considerable amount of rain since last writing. The autumn and early winter outlook there is now satisfactory, with a good supply of feed in view. Owing to the weakness in the frozen meat market in Great Britain, packers have reduced their buying limits for all except the best grades of lambs. When the last mail closed they were buying on the following basis, quotations being at per pound, dressed weights: Prime lambs under 36 pounds, 14½ cents to 17 cents; 37 to 42 pounds, 12¾ cents to 15½ cents; over 42 pounds, 12¼ cents to 13½ cents; second quality, 12½ cents to 15 cents. Prime wethers, 56 pounds down to 8¼ cents, with light ewes at 6½ cents and heavy 5½ cents.

Shipments of frozen meat from New Zealand are being maintained in large volume, the output for March being 182,372 mutton carcasses and 540,393 lamb carcasses to Great Britain. These bring the total for the first quarter of 1927 up to 560,000 mutton carcasses and 1,738,000 lamb carcasses.

As is the case in Australia the wool selling season in New Zealand has practically finished. The market closed particularly firm. The range for super wools was: Merino 36 cents to 46 cents; fine half bred, 35 cents to 42 cents; medium half bred, 32 cents to 40 cents; Corriedale (average) 33 cents to 36 cents; fine crossbred, 27 cents to 32½ cents. At the end of February, 396,495 bales had been sold, and 391,237 exported. Exports at the same date of 1926 stood at 368,743 bales.

The Trend of the Times in the Sheep Business

By William Sharp

A comparison of present-day conditions in the sheep and wool growing industry with those existing prior to the year 1920 will disclose the fact that several important changes have taken place. These changes, relating particularly to finance, range, transportation and markets, naturally bear vitally upon the welfare and future prosperity of the industry. It would seem then, that a brief retrospect might be in order, comparing former conditions with present and letting the results achieved plead their own worth.

First in rank of importance stands the subject of finance. Without proper financial support no industry, no commercial enterprise can hope to prosper. The sheep industry has always offered a fertile field for the investment of capital. It is an old established catering to the two most essential needs requisite to human existence: food and clothing. In its operation it makes productive great areas of waste lands that otherwise would be without revenue. Sheep are the true gleaners of field and forest; they are the porters of the range, balling up into their mysterious cud the season's growth of grass, browse and weeds, converting these commodities into wool and mutton, and carrying the metamorphosed product to market for the benefit of mankind.

In former years credit was elastic enough, and confidence in the business was strong enough, to make it a comparatively easy matter to finance a sheep and wool-growing operation. The wool grower could go to a live stock loan company and there negotiate a loan to cover a large part of his initial outlay for breeding stock. After making such a loan the equity that remained in his sheep, together with his equities in ranch and range holdings left him a substantial credit rating at his local bank, where he had little trouble in financing his current needs. Thus he had available two distinct credit lines: a major one with the live stock loan company for the purpose of purchase and upkeep of breeding stock, and a minor one with his local bank that took care of his operating expense.

This system of finance worked very well for many years. However there was one unfavorable factor in the scheme that was not thoroughly understood at the time, a weakness that was not recognized and provided for before it served to contribute largely to the utter breakdown of this two-line credit arrangement. Take for example a twelve-dollar ewe. Her operating expense, covering interest, labor, feed, depreciation, etc. would amount to very nearly fifty per cent of her value for annual upkeep. This was about as strong as the loan companies would go in making their loans. They took as security a first mortgage on the ewe, wool, and increase. The local banks more often took only a promissory note, unsecured except by the wool grower's integrity, his equities in land and live stock, and his reputation for meeting his obligations. Further than that local banks depended upon nothing more than a sort of dim understanding that they would get the first chance at wool and lamb money. When all is said and done, looking over this arrangement, the fact that such a system of credits could ever have gained the strength it once had seems to speak fairly well for the general run of the raisers of sheep and wool. About the year 1920, however, a demoralized market, coupled with an unprecedented clamor for immediate liquidation, caused each of these credit lines to look to the liquidation aspect of their investments. In many instances loan companies and the larger banks foreclosed on their securities, exercising the rights of the first mortgagee, which often left the local banks with practically nothing to collect upon, other than their client's equity in ranch and range holdings. Without live stock to render them productive, these were about as valuable as an empty sack, and became known as 'frozen assets.' Not that the larger banks and loan companies were exempt from such losses, for the very unfavorable market condition made it impossible for them to recover the full intrinsic value of their securities.

These discoveries were so generally distasteful to all parties concerned that immediately thereafter local banks and loan companies tacitly severed that loose partnership under which they had up to that time jointly cultivated this credit field. Local banks probably felt that they had unwittingly placed themselves in the position of being a common law wife to the industry, and they now no longer cared to continue to keep house on that basis. Although banks and loan companies retained the kindest feelings toward each other, and both are eager to see the industry flourish, they will no longer play in each other's yard. If the reader doubt this let him go to the nearest bank and try to negotiate a loan for operating purposes on sheep that are already pledged to other interests for security.

The natural result was that loan companies devised ways and means to carry the loan values on the breeding stock as well as the annual operating expense. This brought about a wider use of the budget system. The wool grower today is far more apt to know exactly what it costs him per head for range, feed, labor, commissary, etc. than he did before he began to use the loan company's single credit line. Under this arrangement sheep are today better and more scientifically financed than ever before. The resulting paper has an unsurpassed commercial trustworthiness, at the same time strengthening its maker's credit by eliminating the possibility of having two separate credit concerns wrangle over the disbursement of his income.

In the matter of range considerably forward strides have been made. Establishing forest reserve permits on long-time terms at once produced a stability that was much needed to allay the growing uneasiness as to the ultimate safety of live stock investments. On spring and fall range too, a change for the better is noticeable. The two-mile-limit thinking homesteader has gathered up his water barrels and moved away. His cabin lies a tumbled wreck, a fleeting memorial to a clumsy insincerity to which he and a great government once were partners—

for no true home could ever have been established on those waste premises that were so indiscriminately parceled out under the guise of homesteads. Here and there of course a few hardy souls remain—at what expense of comfort and what obstinate defiance to the dictates of their better judgment only they and their families can say. There is no possibility that the public domain ever again will be subject to the menace of such unprofitable ventures.

Through the adoption of more powerful motive equipment railroads have shortened the time to market at least ten per cent under former schedules. This gives the shipper an improved service, cuts down the loss from shrinkage, and puts his product on the market in better flesh condition.

The problem of marketing can not be easily solved to everybody's satisfaction. In the matter of wool, the local pool system now has been fully tried out and its weaknesses exposed. It is only a short step farther to consolidate these pools under one sales management that can undertake intelligently to dispose of an entire season's clip. The present habit on the part of manufacturers to buy only on a hand-to-mouth basis naturally brings up the question as to who shall carry the burden of storage. This is a real problem which must be worked out in such a way as to give the wool grower access to the full market value of his wool, minus the handling expense and margin of risk involved. Indications point to an early achievement to this end, which would then place the wool grower on equal footing, as regards marketing, with other producing vendors of raw materials.

The marketing of lambs continues to have its endemic troubles. Price fluctuations that refuse to yield to any known process of forecasting persist to keep the shipper in suspense. It is not impossible that a partial remedy may be found here by keeping a closer check upon the bulk of refrigerated meats and granting these a higher coefficient power in their relation to market fluctuations. The writer offers this suggestion merely as an experiment; to consult a good reliable fortune

teller would probably bring equally dependable results. There is this much about a lamb; when it is matured and ready for market it becomes first cousin to a ripe strawberry—it should go. Quality, after all, is about the best medium with which to reach for higher prices.

Taking it by and large, viewing the

industry from these various angles, and noting the very substantial progress achieved, the wool grower has every reason to believe that his business is on a sound footing, that it has a splendid future ahead, promising reasonable profits on his investments and meriting all the confidence to which a great beneficent industry is entitled.

Caution, Crepe and Contributions

By P. H. Shallenberger.

Some months ago I contributed to the National Wool Grower an article commenting, in no very serious manner, on the peculiar, obstinate, and often amusing whims of the human appetite, which I stated were too powerful to be overcome even by the wiles and persistence of the food advertiser. I had no hope nor intention of convincing those whose livelihood depends on advertising and boosting that their stimulants ever fail. My words were addressed, through a wool growers' journal, to my fellow producer who is being constantly asked to finance schemes of organization, advertising and marketing offered by professionals in these lines.

The testimony in the Ford-Sapiro trial has shown that large and certain profits go to the promoters of these schemes while the returns to the producer are often microscopic. It is claimed by Ford's attorneys that Sapiro reaped a harvest of one and a half millions out of his advertising and marketing associations. Sapiro contends that his net profits never exceeded half a million. An acceptance of his figures shows that organizing and invigorating the producer is quite a profitable operation. The list of alleged profits read by Ford's attorneys included:

\$142,000 from Tri-State Tobacco Assn., \$48,000 from Burley Tobacco Assn., \$6,000 from Potato Growers of Colorado, \$30,000 from The Dark Tobacco Growers of Kentucky, \$17,500 from Maine Potato Co-operative, \$5,500 from an association in Oregon, and \$6,000 from The Caroline Peanut Growers.

The wool and lamb trade seems to the most of us to be in a very healthy condition. We cannot see that it needs any

expensive doctors. An average feeder lamb will now net the grower about seven dollars. In 1912 we were still calling two dollars per head a good price. This great increase of five dollars a head has come to us without any assistance from publicity. Had we in this time been financing an expensive advertising campaign, the advertisers would have claimed great credit. Prices for feeder lambs during the past three years have been about as high as the feeder or consumer can stand. In our state of Wyoming the lambs are contracted before they are born. On the approach of the shipping season scarcely an unsold lamb is to be found. Frequent calls by phone and car testify to the keen demand. Why attempt to boost a price which has already reached its peak? No other line of agricultural production is blessed by such a market and demand. We are also getting a fairer proportion of what is paid by the producer than do those fruit growers whose products are marketed by great organizations and extensively advertised. We sell lambs in December that will not be born until May. The feeder must have a fighting chance for his profit, and if we push still higher the price of mutton there will be less of it bought. If a doctor wishes to sell you his nostrums his first task is to convince you that there is something wrong with you.

It has also been suggested that we carry on an advertising campaign to increase the general consumption of wool. If this is not a hopeless task it is certainly a gigantic and an expensive one. It would have to be nation-wide and persisted in over a period of years. It could easily

absorb a million dollars annually. If it failed to show results we would be told that the scheme was insufficiently financed and our contributions contrasted with the immense sums spent by other advertisers.

My contention that the whims of the human appetite are not altered by alluring advertisement is proved by the very satisfactory condition of the moonshine market. Its producers and handlers are forbidden to advertise, and at all times it must contend with what the "Commercial Bulletin" would call "A chin to mouth market." Not only is it barred from advertising its own merits, but it contends with constant advertisement of its vile-ness. Every newspaper and magazine, and even the government issues constant warnings of its poisonous nature. We are told that it will blind, it will craze and it will kill. Yet the victorious appetite triumphs over all this waste of printers' ink. A vicious stomach exerts more power than a virtuous press. If it were true that our stomachs and purses are solely at the mercy of advertisers; the fact would open up to the timid a vista of terrifying possibilities. Not only will we be forced to accept sauer-kraut as a popular and fashionable dish, but the garlic growers and the limburger perfumers may eventually compel us to become helpless addicts by a vigorous and odorous campaign which will necessitate throwing open the very windows of Heaven.

We are often told that the business world is divided between such pessimistic moralists as say "It cannot be done," and those gentlemen of optimism and vision who say, "It can be done." Unfortunately this is not usually the entire message of the latter group. They are too often saying "It can be done—, it will take considerable coin and we would like to have you put it up." It is this final sentence which forces many of us to run for shelter and to hide our valuables.

Happily there are other optimistic and adventurous gentlemen who finance their own schemes. They are assured of our continued admiration and affection. Students of our mentalities may differ as to whether reluctance to part with coin proceeds from extreme pessimism or extreme

optimism, but the man who is able to hold on to his money is seldom worried about his classification. Wherever we live, we thread our way through oil sharks, promoters, organizers and boosters, all of whom are possessed of great vision and elevation of spirit but are short on coin. It is small wonder if some of us arm ourselves with caution and with crepe, and refuse to attend a disarmament conference called by professional marketeers of the Sapiro type.

The live-stock industry and the packers now contribute to the National Live Stock and Meat Board the yearly sum of \$70,000, which is obtained by an assessment of five cents on each car of live stock shipped. This fund is used in various ways to promote an increased use of meats, and seeks now to undo the work done by the government during the war to discourage the use of meat. It is now proposed that a dollar a car be collected on all sheep and lamb shipments to inaugurate and carry on a special campaign in the interest of lamb consumption. For sheepmen to handle such a distinct campaign would be a duplication, eating up a large amount of the producers' money.

If we add to this another campaign for the increased use of wool the total would mount, probably reaching three million dollars annually. This is a large sum to be taken out of the pockets of western overalls. It would be a few millions more taken from the West and given to the East, which already exerts a deadly drain upon us.

Advertising money goes largely to the great popular weeklies, printed in New York and Philadelphia, demanding \$1,000 to \$7,000 per page for a single issue. These journals display no kindliness toward the West or the live-stock business. Sheep and cattle men are constantly pictured on their pages as vandals and scavengers. The sheepman of the West has always been their pet antipathy. We owe them nothing. It would be painful to many to see our tainted money adorning their advertising pages and assisting in the maintenance of such unfriendly journals.

No one would be so foolish as to question the great power of advertising in very many lines. Innumerable articles

can be sold successfully only through advertising. It has become a business of the greatest magnitude. Its territory and its profits far exceed those of the wool grower. It is able to dictate to the whole world of journalism. Yet, like many a good medicine, it may be helpful in one disorder and useless in another. The breeder of throughbred live stock is almost entirely dependent on it, while the grower of grade and feeder stock has little need for it. The retail merchant must advertise constantly while the wholesaler does little or none of it. Swift and Company may find it profitable to advertise their special brand of lard, but it would be a different thing for hog-raisers of the Middle West to assess themselves heavily in an attempt to increase the general consumption of lard.

The advertising world gaily works one business group against another. If the cereal coffee people are spending a million proclaiming the poisonous nature of good old Java, the coffee importers are urged to contribute another million in a campaign of contradiction. The banana, prune and pineapple people are induced to spend large sums to disprove the assertion that orange juice is the true Elixir of Life. In like manner the wool and cotton growers can be pitted against one another in an advertising battle, that would benefit only its instigators and a group of millionaire publishers.

As soon as our wool campaign was well launched it would be brought to the attention of the cotton growers. To them would come the warning, "Speed up those mules and dig up half a million or those sheepmen will have everybody wearing woolen underwear on the Fourth of July. Let us rally round the B. V. D." Would it not be wiser for cotton planter and wool grower to wrap their coin in a piece of convenient crepe rather than enrich advertisers by merely neutralizing one another's efforts?

Our own country, state and national organizations are alert, sane and sufficient. If we have more to contribute let us put it in those treasuries and know where it goes. We may be amateurs, stupid and overcautious, but there is more fun in wasting your own money than in seeing others do it for you.

Some Rambouillet Entries for the National Ram Sale August 29-30-31



A stud ram from the flock of John Seely & Sons Co., Mt. Pleasant, Utah.



A W. D. Candland (Mt. Pleasant) yearling.



One of the John K. Madsen yearling stud rams, a winner in his class at the last Salt Lake Show.



Some of the range rams consigned by the Gillett Sheep Co. of Castleford, Idaho.



Rams from the F. J. Neilson flock of Mt. Pleasant.

FOREST GRAZING PERMITS FOR 1924-1925-1926

The U. S. Forest Service recently has distributed a report covering the number of grazing permits and numbers of each class of stock admitted for each national forest during the years 1924, 1925 and 1926.

Total numbers of cattle and sheep grazed on the forests declined steadily from 1918 to 1925. In the latter year a total of 6,182,000 sheep were admitted to the forests under 5,829 permits. In

1926, 153 additional sheep permits were issued for 11,000 more sheep. Permitted cattle declined by 83,000 from 1925 to 1926, the number of permits falling off from 23,804 to 22,295.

In Colorado forests there was an increase of 76 sheep-owning permittees and 60,000 sheep in 1926. This is represented as having resulted from the opening of new territory to grazing rather than from the decrease in cattle population. In Idaho 48 more sheep permits were issued

in 1926 than in 1925 with a decrease of 34,814 in the number of sheep allowed. Twenty-five more sheepmen were given permits in Montana and 7,990 more sheep allowed. For Oregon there was a decrease of 16,528 in the number of sheep grazed and the number of permittees was increased by two. Permits were issued to eleven more sheep owners in Utah in 1926 and the number of sheep increased by 14,588.

NUMBER OF FOREST PERMITS AND ANIMALS GRAZED DURING PAST THREE YEARS

	NUMBER OF PERMITS						NUMBER OF STOCK					
	Cattle and Horses			Sheep and Goats			Cattle and Horses			Sheep and Goats		
	1924	1925	1926	1924	1925	1926	1924	1925	1926	1924	1925	1926
Arizona	1,327	1,325	1,333	99	109	112	279,520	254,149	236,119	262,492	273,700	260,865
California	2,405	2,171	2,140	397	355	347	193,866	168,455	169,490	468,693	414,199	424,887
Colorado	3,571	3,473	3,143	694	726	802	302,200	296,376	287,498	861,771	896,059	956,433
Idaho	3,481	3,163	3,047	862	902	950	160,601	146,027	141,930	1,424,571	1,338,029	1,303,215
Montana	2,275	2,119	2,111	388	437	452	152,362	141,254	138,766	570,268	558,395	566,385
Nevada	439	441	437	103	100	109	71,489	63,774	61,194	293,832	302,861	299,406
New Mexico	1,705	1,722	1,860	367	325	312	107,766	103,844	95,123	263,875	220,103	220,449
Oregon	1,538	1,401	1,254	442	432	434	123,638	113,006	100,070	659,084	628,047	611,519
Utah	5,762	5,255	4,768	1,837	1,904	1,915	143,566	135,237	125,888	730,797	718,075	732,663
Washington	656	615	432	132	137	138	25,568	22,691	13,992	169,567	171,421	163,787
Wyoming	901	887	787	270	310	306	112,644	108,621	103,576	612,967	644,729	633,892
Total for 23 states	25,298	23,804	22,295	5,695	5,829	5,982	1,722,271	1,596,846	1,513,810	6,330,376	6,182,058	6,193,166

THE WOOL SACK

THE TEXAS WOOL SALES SYSTEM

Northern wool growers can profit by a study of last month's events in Texas. While clips were going at or below early contract prices from Utah to Oregon and Washington, buyers operating in Texas advanced prices for twelve months' wool as much as three cents a pound beyond the prices of earlier contracts for similar clips.

While it is stated that quality and shrinkage of these clips turned out better than had been anticipated when contracting was done, yet the method of selling is entirely responsible for most of the advantage gained. The winter estimate of the condition and shrinkage of the clips undoubtedly was held low enough in early contracting to produce a price that would make purchases safe so far in advance of shearing, as is generally the custom when contracting is done.

Mr. Kidder's report in this issue states that from eighteen to twenty-seven buyers have been active in Texas at various times in May and that prices for shorn wools sold in sealed bid sales varied from the equal of contract prices to three cents per grease pound above those rates. Texas has a number of concentration points at which wools accumulate and are offered to the trade under the sealed bid plan. These sales appear to have resulted in actual competition from the buying interests, as is shown in Mr. Kidder's discussion of the opening sale at San Angelo on May the 19th.

The trade considers that recent prices in the country are fully on a parity with Boston quotations. It is still conceded, however, that these quotations fall considerably short of being on a parity with foreign markets. The western clip has gone out of buyers' hands to a larger extent than usual at this time. Mill demand is improving and dealers appear confident of a rise in Boston quotations which will mean additional margins of profit, as on the basis of the old quotations they were assured of a margin of profit above the cost of assembling and carrying their purchases until taken by mills.

With wools concentrated in the hands of dealers by July and a stronger tone to demand, a fair demonstration can be

expected of the results of orderly selling by those whose business it is to know wools, and markets.

The Boston Wool Market

By Henry A. Kidder

Important and interesting developments in wool trading during the past month have been mainly in primary markets in Texas and the Far West. Developments in the Lone Star state have been particularly interesting, as Boston buyers have shown unexpected keenness and have advanced their bids to levels not deemed possible a month ago. As a result the first of June finds the clip in that state unusually well covered by contract or direct purchase, with operations fully a month earlier than last year. That is, the end of May this year finds the clip better sold than it was at the end of June a year ago.

But the extent and the early date of the clearance are not the most important features of the situation in that state. It was commonly remarked and generally believed in the Boston market that too much money was paid for the contracts, and this view seemed to be confirmed by the efforts made to resell the contracts about as soon as they were made. In fact, it is reported that considerable business was done in that direction, and it was also understood that the sellers were willing to trade on the basis of a very small profit, said in some cases to have been as low as a cent a pound net.

What has come over the market between March and May to bring about so radical a change in opinion regarding the value of this year's Texas clip? It would seem that something startling has happened, or how explain the indisputable fact that during May, in fact since the shorn wools were in a position to be offered, the general average of prices, especially for the twelve-months' wools, has been about three cents a pound above contract levels. If there had been a correspondingly radical change in the situation in the Boston market, the problem

would not be so difficult; but no such change has taken place. Summer Street prices are about where they have been for several months. Possibly there may be fewer clearing sales of end-of-the-season lots, but when standard wools are considered, the change is hardly perceptible.

All the Boston houses have been in the game and have secured more or less wool. eighteen to twenty-seven buyers have been active in Texas at various times during the past month, and the competition has been so keen that instead of rejecting the bids made, they appear to have been so satisfactory that the sellers have pushed out their holdings faster than was contemplated in the advertising. Special mention is made of the matter here as it is really the outstanding feature of the situation in domestic wools at the present time.

The first sealed bid sale was held at San Angelo, May 19, with a total clearance of approximately 1,500,000 pounds. The general range of prices was 36½ to 41 cents for twelve-months' wool, the average range for the bulk of the wool being about 38 to 39 cents. The clean cost landed Boston was estimated at 97 cents to \$1.05, though possibly the better clips work out at \$1 to \$1.05. This was the first big movement of the season in eight-months' wool as little of it was contracted. Prices paid at this time were 30 to 33 cents, bulk 32 to 33 cents, the clean cost landed Boston being estimated at 80 to 85 cents. For twelve-months' wool the prices paid were above the peak of last year, and compare with a range of about 35 to 37½ cents for the early contracts this year. The discrepancy becomes more noteworthy, when it is remembered that this year's Jericho clip sold 4¼ cents under last year, and this is believed to

represent fairly the general drop in prices in the Boston market during the period.

Later sales were held at Kerrville, Del Rio, Bracketville, Uvalde and San Antonio. At Kerrville, the wools offered were not considered so light and desirable as those offered at San Angelo, and yet they brought 40 to 41 cents for the twelve-months' and $31\frac{1}{2}$ to 32 cents for the eight-months', clean cost estimates being respectively \$1 to \$1.05 and 85 cents. Another sale is scheduled for Sanderson for June 14, which will go far towards winding up the season in Texas.

The prompt clearance of the new clip at peak prices has undoubtedly been largely due to the unusual quality and light shrinkage of the wool. Samples are being shown here which are estimated to have a shrinkage of not over 57 per cent, and in some cases as low as 56 per cent is claimed. Not only is the wool light, but it is unusually free from burr and tag. Manufacturers who are beginning to feel the pinch of the scarcity of the more desirable Australian Merinos are turning to Texas twelve-months' wool as an acceptable substitute. This bears out what has been previously written regarding the strong position of domestic wool in this year's scheme.

As Texas is being cleared of desirable wools, the attention of the trade is being rapidly turned toward the Territory wool country. Though shearing has not begun in Montana, the first of June finds a new contracting movement in full swing, with prices at or above early contracting levels. It is claimed that some clips are still being obtained as low as 32 to 33 cents, particularly at the higher figure, but it is also true that 34 and even 35 cents is being paid for occasional choice clips. Present indications are that Montana will be well sold or under consignment before shearing starts. At the moment the market appears to be pretty well stabilized at about 33 cents.

Similar conditions exist in Wyoming, especially in the northern part of the state, where shearing is still some distance away. Most of the recent trading has been along the line of the Union Pacific, the buying pressure from this end being mainly for medium wools. Some buying and a little contracting has been done in that state at $30\frac{1}{2}$ to 33 cents, the latter

being for good medium wools to be shorn about the middle of June. There has recently been some trading at Rock Springs at 32 cents, in some cases for wools from the 1925 and 1926 clips, as well as 1927. The carrying of these wools has not been a profitable operation. Some Soda Springs, Idaho, wool has also been sold in the same way and at the same price.

Wool marketing in Utah is about over for the season. It is claimed that the new clip is better cleared in Utah than in any other state, except possibly in Texas. The sale of the Jericho clip attracted considerable attention, the price paid being thought to be just about enough under last year's selling price to meet the generally lower level of quotations this year. It was understood here that the clip was bought on an estimated shrinkage of 66 per cent, but that some of the later shorn wools in the pool were showing up rather better than this. At 66 per cent, the clean cost landed Boston would be almost 97 cents.

The way this accumulation is being handled is being closely watched here, as most of last year's clip is still unsold, and what has been moved was reported as sold at a loss. It was good merchandising to sell last year at $34\frac{1}{2}$ cents, and the query is will it turn out that the selling committee have done as well this year. Attention has also been attracted to the fact that the Murray Sheep Company's clip, which was sold at about the same time as the Jericho pool wool, brought $33\frac{5}{8}$ cents, or $3\frac{3}{8}$ cents more than the latter.

Eastern Oregon has proved to be quite an attractive hunting ground to eastern buyers of late. At a sealed bid sale at Condon, 200,000 pounds sold at various prices running from $22\frac{3}{4}$ to $31\frac{1}{8}$ cents, with the best clips selling at $28\frac{1}{2}$ cents up. Not much has been done in central Oregon as yet it is reported, though Prineville is to have a sale June 21, when it is expected that something like 500,000 pounds will be available. One of the outstanding features of the last week in May was the sale of something like 5,000,000 pounds of wool in Nevada, Utah and Oregon at 28 to 32 cents. Included in this was the W. T. Jenkins clip at Winnemucca, Nevada, the Reece-Jenkins clip and others. These wools are estimated to

have a clean cost landed Boston of about 95 cents. Most of the recent trading in California appears to have been done for local account, mostly to the scourers.

It will naturally be assumed that what is going on in the Far West is merely a reflection from the recent activity in Texas. According to expert opinion here there is nothing in the present situation to justify either great activity or higher prices. Mill buyers are still trying to beat down prices, and are in most cases taking just as little wool as possible. It is understood that most of the mills have not much if any over a thirty days' supply of raw wool. Not for a long time have they been so close to bare boards as at present. This may be subject to some modification, but is in line with current talk and conforms to the best information available.

The new wools are beginning to arrive more freely, and yet manufacturers are not at all anxious to take over the burden of carrying the new clip until a use is found for it. Interviews with leading wool men bring out some very optimistic talk regarding the statistical position of raw wool, also regarding what ought to be the course of the market and the range of prices in the near future. Yet almost invariably the matter leads to a statement that "if the mills get a normal volume of orders a big volume of wool will be needed and prices ought to advance sharply."

Compared with a month ago, it is difficult to draw any very encouraging deductions from wool prices in this market. In spite of the current activity in Texas, prices for twelve-months' wool here are such as to make it difficult to squeeze out a reasonable profit. In other words, the best twelve-months' wools are selling in the country very nearly at a parity with the Boston market. Current quotations here are \$1.05 to \$1.10 clean for this grade and 85 to 90 cents for eight-months'. Buyers are wary about paying these prices and are trying to get the best wools on the low side of quotations.

Territory wools are also showing a similar lack of pulling power. It is believed that a fair quotation for fine and fine medium Territory staple wool is \$1.05 to \$1.10, but the season for the new staple is hardly open as yet. Buyers

continue to be more interested in French combing wool than in that showing a longer staple. Choice wool of that character can not be quoted at over \$1.05 clean, and some sales have recently been made at that figure, though some holders are asking up to \$1.08 for their best wools. On the other hand, average wools of this type are to be had at \$1 or a little more.

Good half-blood staple wools continue to be relatively scarce, and sales are being made around the dollar mark, with some choice lots held at \$1.02 to \$1.03, though these outside quotations are difficult to obtain. On the other hand, average wools of the half-blood staple type are selling at 95 to 98 cents. Three-eighths-blood staple is rather quiet at the moment, and some very good and useful wools are to be had at 85 to 88 cents clean, though occasional lots are held firmly at 90 cents. The quarter-blood staple grade is relatively stronger than the three-eighths-blood, and sales are reported to have been recently made at 78 to 80 cents. A little low quarter-blood from the new clip has sold on the clean basis of 66 to 67 cents.

The position of the new fleece wool clip from the Middle West is not so well established as the Territory clip. Recently some Ohio wool from the 1925 and 1926 clips has been dumped on this market, and this has held down prices. Based on recent sales, a fair range of quotations for Ohio and similar fleeces today would be 43 to 43½ cents for fine unwashed delaine, 43 cents for half-blood combing, 42 cents for three-eighths-blood combing, 41 cents for quarter-blood combing and 35 to 36 cents for fine unwashed clothing.

Woolen mills have been operating steadily, and the market is well cleared of good B super (pulled) wools. The best of those available are quoted at 85 to 87 cents, with ordinary lots at 80 to 85 cents. B lambs are coming forward more freely and moderate sales are noted at 84 to 85 cents. AA wools have recently sold within the range of \$1.05 to \$1.10.

Allowing that the future of the wool market hinges on the demand for goods, it is only fair to say that at last an improvement is noted in the sale of heavy-weights. The season has been slow in getting started, but buyers appear at last to have found the measure of goods buyers, and a fair movement is assured.

Samples for the new light-weight season are being prepared and are expected to be shown around July 1. An advance over last season's prices is predicted. Summer Street does not appear to be looking for a serious advance in wool prices in the near future, though the situation from the wool end of the market can hardly be called anything but strong.

TRADING IN WOOL FUTURES UNDER INVESTIGATION

A survey of the wool industry is being made by a committee appointed on March 23, by the New York Cotton Exchange for the purpose of ascertaining the practicability of trading in wool futures.

When this matter was first broached by the Cotton Exchange, more or less comment on the proposition was made. Newspaper reports were to the effect that both the Boston and Philadelphia wool markets had grave doubts as to its successful operation. The wool trade, it is said, would welcome any move that would improve conditions in their business, but do not see in the wool futures proposal the shaft of light that will brighten things up. Dealers and manufacturers interviewed declared that while future trading in tops might be practicable, if a standard could be agreed upon, the handling of grease wool in such a way seemed impossible on account of its peculiar qualities, the factors of dirt and grease making the necessary standardization a very difficult, if not entirely impossible, affair. It was also pointed out that a wool exchange was tried out four years ago and proved unsuccessful and that the present time with the disturbed conditions in the woolen industry is not opportune for attempting such trading.

Trading in wool futures is practiced to a certain extent in the West at the present time, as evidenced by the large volume of wools that have been contracted this year. But it is a very different matter for buyers who know the quality of the clips they purchase, either through reputation or direct knowledge, to use such a system than it would be if put into operation in the East, where the gambling element in the transaction would be raised to the nth power and transaction

of this kind are always completed by the original buyer's taking delivery. No rules and standards of grades are called for such as are employed and found practical with corn, cotton and wheat, contracts for which pass through a large number of hands before delivery is made.

In spite of all the adverse comments and criticism that have been lodged against the proposal, Mr. Leon B. Lowenstein, the chairman of the committee studying the wool futures matter, is still of the opinion, according to the Daily News Record of March 28, that the plan is feasible.

Before taking any definite steps, however, the committee is to make a thorough study of all angles of the proposal, which, as announced by Mr. Lowenstein, will probably include hearings in Boston, Philadelphia, and other wool centers, and will call upon the United States Department of Agriculture for cooperative support.

A wool futures markets has also been receiving consideration in England. The Annual Wool Review of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers includes a statement to the effect that last fall Col. F. Vernon Willey advocated the establishment of such a market before the Royal Colonial Institute, declaring among other things that present facilities were no longer adequate to handle a year's production in a few months. His proposal, however, met with strong opposition from the spinning and weaving part of the trade on the ground that trading in wool futures would undoubtedly produce greater speculation, when less speculation is what is needed.

SALE OF RAILROAD LAND IN NEVADA

Newspaper reports of June 2 announce the sale of a large area of land owned by the Southern Pacific Company and located within the boundaries of the Humboldt National Forest in Nevada. This land was previously leased to the owners of adjacent ranches and used for grazing purposes. The deal is said to have involved a total of \$56,000, with the average price per acre, \$2.65. Several Nevada stockmen were the purchasers.

LETTER FROM A SHEPHERD TO HIS PAL

Dear Ern:

Is the world round, or is it flat—what do you say? I'm out a hundred and fifty bucks, which I just paid a shepherd to support his theory that she's as flat as a pancake, with a jumping-off place any direction you want to go, if you'll only go far enough.

Sid Ellis, you remember him—tall raw-boned guy used to work for the Coiled Snake outfit—took the said coin away from me, aided and abetted by a blond blue-eyed maiden with a high school diploma, a fascinating marcell and a purty efficacious set of dimples. Sid and I hadn't met in five years, so last night we celebrated the event with a feed in a private dining room here at the hotel, with a couple of colored boys packing in the eats, from soup and sea food to steaks as big as saddle blankets, and caviar on toast. I'd met up with Alice—that's the high school blonde—a few days before and was on easy footing that way with her. She runs a typewriter in between meals. Anyway, Alice was there and brought along a friend, Ethel, a brunette with a four-wheel brake disposition—plenty speed enough for Sid at that—so there was four of us.

After we'd filled up to capacity the girls got fidgety and wanted to go places and see things. Sid thought it'd be great to drive around town in a car, and the girls dropped right in with his line of thought. The colored boys rustled us a car—a big bus, with a bellow like a mad bull—and away we went.

Sid wanted to drive, so Alice and me reclined ourselves in the rear seat and assumed a look as if Sid and Ethel was our paid hired help. First street crossing we came to Sid got into a jam and stopped the traffic—he'd never drove nothing except a Ford, and thought he could turh that bus around on a dime—so we headed her out for the open country where he had a better chance to spread out his talents.

Well sir, Ern, she was a fine large night, with the moon shining down into the balmy aspect like a new platinum clock all lit up for fancy doings. We went up a steep dugway. When we got up on top Sid swung the car out of the road over into the flat and stopped the

engine, and we just sat there and gazed out over the landscape.

Back of us a chain of proud mountains stood stacked up against the sky, plenty raw material to build another world or two somewhere, and stuff to spare. Down below us hovered and swam ten thousand square miles of silvery mist, sporting a bunch of floating islands, like dream-ships on a sea of dreams. An easy breeze wafted us the perfume of budding flowers, and from a distant thicket came the throbbing notes of a mourning dove, sad, melancholic echoes of broken lutes and broken hopes.

I felt Alice shiver. "Ugh," says she to me, "that dove makes me feel lonesome."

In the front seat Ethel slumped over against Sid. "I feel like I'd come to the end of the world," says she.

"It's a long ways to the end of the world," Sid says. "Thousands and thousands of miles."

"Have you ever been there?" Ethel then asks him.

"No, and that's only half of the story," says Sid. "The other half is that I ain't going. It's dangerous."

"How so?" says Ethel.

"Well, you might skid and slip over the edge."

By gosh that heathen talked like he was in earnest. I nudged Alice, she being intellectual that way, so she could get the drift of the talk.

"Meaning," I butted in, casually, "that you figure the world is flat?"

Sid turned around and gazed at me with an injured look. "Of course, she's flat," says he, fooling with Ethel's bracelet.

"I reckon you never heard about Columbus?" says I, with a polite sarcasm included.

Sid had worked the bracelet off Ethel's wrist and was digging at her rings. "Yeah, I read about him," says he. "Didn't he run for President one time?"

"No," says I then, "Columbus is the guy that discovered the law of gravity and the steam engine."

Sid was now trying one of Ethel's rings on his little finger—I never saw a man so interested in jewelry. "He might have been right on gravity and steam," says he then, absentmindedly, "but he was off his base on that item of the world being

round. Why, look at it—any darn Chinaman can see it's flat!"

Sid always made me impatient. I wanted to cut his argument short. "All right," says I, "I'll bet you a hundred dollars that it's round."

"Sure!" says Sid, "and I'll raise you fifty more."

"Call you!" says I, and the bet was on.

"How'll we decide it?" says Sid.

"That's easy," says I. "Alice here, has been to high school. She's got plenty education. She knows. Whatever she says goes."

"That's fair enough," says Sid.

He had a hundred and fifty right on him, so Ethel held stakes. Alice had gone to sleep, but I woke her up.

"Listen," says I to her, "Sid and I got a bet up and you're to decide. We're betting on the world being round or flat. Which is it?"

Well sir, Ern, that maiden yawned a couple of times, looked langourously up at the moon and spoke her piece of decisive wisdom.

"It's flat," says she, and I collapsed.

"Hand Sid the money," says I to Ethel. "And then let's go back to town and find out if there's a road anywhere so we can drive out and look over the edge. I guess it'd be safe enough if we put on chains so we won't skid."

This morning Alice bought her a sixty-five dollar wrist watch. I reckon Sid split with her on the winnings—that wasn't no mor'n fair, which I'd done it myself if she'd decided in my favor. It made me curious though—it seems to me they nowadays learn high school graduates that the world is round. So I took Alice to dinner and asked her.

"Do you really believe," says I to her, "that the world is flat?"

"Of course I don't," says she.

"Then why in heck did you give that lanky wop the decision?" says I.

"Cause I thought you and I were pals," says she, "And I got the idea you had the flat end of the bet. I was asleep when you and Sid was arguing."

That's all, Ern. I'm going over to Weepah and see if I can dig up a million or so out of the desert. Write soon.

Your friend and pal,

Richard A. Wormwood.

RANGE AND MARKET TRADE IN LAMBS

CHICAGO

California dominated the May lamb market, upsetting the calculations of late feeders of 1926 stock. The trend of values was steadily toward lower levels as the month progressed.

Supply was always ample, but without the big run of good California springers, scarcity would have developed. As it was there were enough springers to take care of the trade, the California run proving a bonanza to killers, retailers and consumers, as it filled in the gap with desirable meat, although somewhat to the disadvantage of feeders who had laid in old crop stock in expectancy of a high finish of the fed season. Toward the end of the month killers discriminated severely against grassy and ill-conditioned shorn lambs of the old crop, some of which went back to the country as low as \$10. The break in sheep was due to a run of Texas stock, demonstrating that the public will take little heavy mutton. Breeding stock was always in demand to satisfy orders from every nook and cranny of the East.

Top on spring lambs for the month was \$18, the first consignment of Idaho lambs realizing \$17 @ 17.10. They were the Bennett lambs from Mountain Home, Idaho. Last year the Farmer lambs opened the Idaho season after Decoration Day, the first consignment reaching \$19.15, a price that stood for only a few days. A feature of May trade was a broad demand for new crop California feeding lambs at \$13.50 @ 14.50.

Weakness was in evidence at the outset when \$16.50, \$17.50 and \$18 were scored by shorn, woolled, and spring lambs respectively. At that stage the residue of Colorado's crop of woolled lambs was cleaned up at \$17 @ 17.25, bulk of shorn lambs selling at \$15 @ 15.65. The first drive was made against inbetween shorn lambs, putting them on a \$14 @ 14.25 basis; culls down to \$12, or a dollar decline from the high spot.

Packers received so many California spring, and Colorado fed lambs, the second week of May that they were independent of the open market offering. The

crest of the California run was reached at this stage, Colorado woolled lambs rapidly disappearing. California springers, 70 to 78 pounds, sold up to \$18; seconds at \$16 @ 17, and culls, \$14 @ 14.50. At this stage a run of Tennessee lambs appeared, preventing possibility of a price reaction.

The last week of the month introduced the initial run of Idaho springers. Prices went down without resistance to the extent of 50 cents to \$1 per hundredweight in consequence of a week's total of 73,000 at Chicago and 200,000 around the ten-market circle. Dressed trade weakened and killers, with heavy direct receipts from below the Ohio River, were able to dictate terms to the selling side. Outside a few choice Idaho spring lambs, selling at \$17 @ 17.10, it was a drab, unsatisfactory market. Early in the week California and Arizona springers registered at \$16.75, but between deterioration in quality and the slump in prices Californias sold at \$14.50 @ 16 at the close, when \$16.50 was the limit on native springers and culls were selling at \$12.25 @ 13. A break of 50 cents in good heavy ewes carried them down to \$5.50 @ 6, with \$7.25 the limit on light ewes. Choice 104-pound California yearlings sold at \$13.50; 90-pound Ohio wethers at \$7.50. Interest in feeding lambs was a feature of the trade at declines of 50 @ 75 cents, 60 to 62-pound California springers going to the country at \$12.75 @ 13.25.

During the last two weeks of May Chicago received 76,000 sheep and lambs; the ten principal markets, 425,000. During the corresponding period last year Chicago handled only 92,000, and the ten markets, 315,000. Obviously the law of supply and demand is still operative.

Dressed trade held up well until late in the month. At Chicago winter lambs sold early at \$30@33; springers at \$32@36. At the Atlantic seaboard it was a \$36@38 market on good spring lambs, mediums selling at \$34@35 and winter lambs at \$30@35. At the end of the month spring lambs were on a \$29@34 basis at Chicago, \$30@35 at New

York. Winter lambs were then selling at \$27@32 in Chicago, \$29@33 at New York. Good ewe carcasses sold at \$14@16 in New York with commons down to \$11. At Chicago it was a \$12@14 trade in fat ewes late in the month. Considerable domestic frozen lamb was worked off early in May at \$25@26.

J. E. Poole.

OMAHA

Heavy marketing of the California lamb crop resulted in drastic price cuts on all classes at Omaha during the month of May. Receipts totaled 163,707 head, 31,000 more than in May of last year, and constituted the largest run for any corresponding period since 1923.

The upward trends of April were continued through the first few days of May and at that time prices showed a substantial margin over those in force on May 1, 1926. By the end of the period there was a complete reversal of form, values ruling unevenly \$1.50@2.00 under the close of April and \$1.25@1.75 lower than at the same time a year ago.

Woolled lambs of the old crop practically passed off the market early in the month. By the second week California lambs were coming freely. Quality of these lambs showed considerable improvement over a year ago and included only a limited portion of feeders. Packers wasted no time getting their bear tactics into play and with practically no shipper demand, top Californias dropped from \$18.15 early in the month to \$16.00 on the close. Medium grades proved hard to move at any kind of a price in some instances. Bulk of the good kinds brought \$17.25@18.00 during the first half of the month and \$16.00@16.65 during the last two weeks; mediums on down the line to \$14.00 and under. Arrivals of natives were comparatively small and prices were close to those paid for western lambs.

On the last day of the month the first Idaho rangers showed up. They were of choice quality and sold with a light sort at \$16.40, while at this writing the best are eligible to \$17.00.

Arrivals of fed clipped lambs were of just fair proportions and they were very

scarce towards the close of the month. The supply, however, seemed to be in keeping with the demand as packers showed little interest in them while the Californias were coming freely, claiming in some instances that the latter were cheapest on the hooks. Sharpest declines were registered in this branch of the trade, with the month's sales taking in a wide range. Closing top was \$14.10, against \$15.80 early in the month, with sales during the four-week period ranging from \$13.50 to \$15.50 largely on good kinds.

At the present time the California run is practically over and, with the Idahos not expected to come freely for another week or two, substantial advances have been scored on all lambs and yearlings. Consensus of opinion is that the June market will display a healthy tone throughout and no serious break in prices is expected.

Business in feeders and shearing lambs was the heaviest for any May since 1908, shipments aggregating 32,685 head. Most of the latter kinds went out early in the month and at this time there is neither supply nor demand. While the Californias furnished proportionately fewer feeders this year, total marketings were considerably heavier than a year ago. Country orders are still scarce but local operators snapped up all that came. Prices, while breaking 50@75 cents for the month in sympathy with the decline in killer stock, compared favorably with those paid for the latter. Most sales for the month were at \$12.50@14.25. Closing top was \$13.40, with medium grades quoted on down the line to \$12.00 and under.

The aged sheep market showed little pep all month. A spurt in mid-season carried prices a little above those at the close of April but this was all lost in the late trade and the close was around 50 cents under a month ago, with spots off more. Choice shorn native ewes were being bought at \$6.00 on the close while the extreme top of \$8.00 for the month was paid for California offerings. Medium and weighty ewes brought on down the line to \$5.00, with those on the cull order lower. Business in feeders and breeding ewes was quiet all month.

K. H. Kittoe.

KANSAS CITY

May proved a decidedly satisfactory month in the sheep market. While prices closed sharply lower than the high point, demand was adequate to absorb large supplies readily and without the usual spectacular swing in prices. A drop in prices was to be expected, especially in view of the fact that shortly after the first of the month they were the highest of the year and higher by nearly \$2.00 than the corresponding time last year. After the middle of the month the supply was on the new crop basis and only belated bunches of winter-fed lambs arrived occasionally. Some shorn fed lambs were in evidence and fall shorn and spring shorn added to the variety. However, the general controlling factor with the trade was spring lambs. Demand absorbed them readily and passed on to the new crop basis without dealing out any material shock.

May opened with spring lambs bringing \$16.50 to \$17.50. In the next few days quotations reached \$18.25, fell back slightly, rallied again and about the middle of the month started a general downward movement which remained unchecked until the last two days. The close was about 25 cents above the low point and \$1.50 below the average of the first two weeks. Arizona, Texas and California lambs made up the bulk of the supply. Native lambs are later than usual this year and on that account those offered did not make up a large enough per cent of the total supply to be considered in the price making.

Both Arizona and California lambs showed high average quality and comparatively little sorting was necessary. Reports indicate that Arizona is through shipping and the big part of the California lambs are out of the way. Both states made timely clearances and got in ahead of Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia lambs that are about due at the eastern markets. Idaho will figure in the fat lamb market for the next thirty days and some 40,000 lambs will be shipped from the Arkansas River valley in Colorado. By the middle of July nearly all localities will be shipping, but the heavy western range runs will not get under way before the middle of August.

On the May close California and Arizona lambs sold at \$15.75 to \$16.25; native lambs \$15 to \$16.10 and Texas shorn lambs, grass fat, \$10.50 to \$13. The extreme top price for the month was \$18.50.

Shorn grass fat sheep from Texas made up the principal supply of mature sheep for the month. Prices broke \$1.50 to \$2 and the decline in them was relatively severer than for lambs. At the high point early in the month shorn ewes sold at \$8.25 to \$9 and shorn wethers \$9.50 to \$10. On the close, which was the low point of the month, shorn ewes brought \$5.50 to \$7 and shorn wethers \$7.50 to \$8.25. Yearlings were very scarce and will continue to be so as last year's lambs were cleaned up before the yearling dead line.

As for stockers and feeders, the month was below normal. Most lambs were fat enough for killers, and those that were not were conditioned after a short feed. This made the month of May pass without a hang-over supply for June.

The general feeder situation has developed along expected lines. Colorado and western Nebraska already have approximately 1,000,000 lambs under contract for fall delivery and will doubtless buy an additional three-quarter million head, and regain the status of giant in the feeding game this coming winter. The corn belt will feed lambs, but fewer than last winter. Numbers will be controlled by crop development in the next sixty days. Their purchases will be made principally at central markets.

The June lamb market will probably average lower than May, especially if Buffalo and Chicago get many of the southern and native lambs, and indications are that they will. However demand for dressed lamb has been broad and if it continues in normal volume outlet will be sufficient to care for liberal supplies.

May receipts in Kansas City were 182,500 or 27,845 larger than in the same month last year. In the first five months receipts were 626,127 compared with 647,012 in the same period in 1926, a decrease of 20,885.

C. M. Pipkin.

ST. JOSEPH

Sheep receipts for the month of May were around 103,200 compared with 88,151 the same month a year ago. The market has been a very uneven affair throughout the month and closes sharply lower. Compared with a month ago spring lambs are mostly \$2.00 lower. Best natives on the close sold at \$15.75 with others down to \$15.25. Californias were freely marketed during the month and sold from \$15.75 to \$17.50 with best on the close at \$16.00. Two shipments of Idahos sold late in the month at \$16.00 @16.25. Clipped lambs are around \$1.25 lower, with the closing top at \$14.00. Feeding lambs sold on the close from \$12.50@13.25. Aged sheep closed \$1.50 @2.00 lower. Best native ewes on the close sold at \$6.00, with westerns quoted up to \$6.25. Yearlings were \$12.00@13.00 on late days and wethers were quoted \$8.00@9.00.

H. H. Madden.

DENVER

Seasonal declines in the price of spring lambs were in order during the month of May, just ended. The supply was very good on the Denver market, and the stock was well received. Woolled lambs from feed lots were selling here at the close of April at \$16 to \$16.25. The first California spring lambs made \$17.75 here late in April, this being the highest price of the present year on the Denver market. No more woolled lambs are now available. Neither are there many clipped lambs to come to the market. Clipped lambs were quoted at the close of May at \$13 to \$13.75 for the fair to good grades.

Idaho spring lambs sold at the close of the month up to \$16.25 and at this date (June 6) are selling at \$16.75. Ewes that sold at \$7.50 early in May were selling at the close at \$6.50.

Supplies are expected to be light at Denver for the next month or more. A good many lambs are expected from Idaho, Oregon, Utah and other sections of the Northwest, but California supply is about gone, and the local range marketing will not begin for a couple of months or more.

Indications are for liberal feeding of lambs in northern Colorado next fall.

Contracts are already being made by many feeders while others will profit by the experience of a year ago and buy their feed lot supplies on the market.

Receipts of sheep at Denver during May were 49,028 head compared to 61,606 in May, 1927.

W. N. Fulton.

IMPROVEMENT IN TENNESSEE LAMBS

Tennessee has been carrying on a lamb-improvement campaign for several years that is getting results. This year its crop went to Nashville and Cincinnati in May in superb condition, trimmed and qualified, early arrivals making \$16.50. By using black-face rams and mutton type ewes, Tennessee is producing a superior article. Lambs reached Nashville this spring fresh as daisies and fat as hogs, weighing 70 pounds or better, sappy and otherwise in model shape. Lamb improvement pays.

Improvement of native lambs has been an iridescent dream these many years. Farm flock owners specialize in buck lambs because they work along the lines of least resistance. Trimming is work and labor on the farm, especially for such odd jobs, is scarce. Many growers figure that what they lose in price they gain in weight, which is a delusion, as when buck lambs are plentiful they are severely penalized. The chief evil of the buck lamb raising practice lies in the fact that they cannot be fed out and invariably go to market en masse toward the tail end of the season to be appraised "as is." While it is true that quality counts and is entitled to a premium, numbers exert a demoralizing influence on the market.

J. E. Poole.

CARCASS COST OF LAMBS

A man who figures dopes out the advantage of spring over winter lambs at this season as follows: A \$14 shorn winter lamb dressing 48 per cent has had a pelt credit of 65 cents recently, making it cost \$27.50 in the carcass. An Idaho springer costing \$17 has a \$1.90 pelt credit and a 51 per cent dressing, making it cost \$29.50. Always the springer carcass has commanded a sufficient premium to justify disparity in live cost.

It cuts better, makes a more attractive package and can be cleaned up while the older package lies around getting stale and in danger of going to the scrap barrel.

J. E. Poole.

VARIATION IN LAMB YIELDS

Variation in this year's lamb yields in different sections is shown by reports coming to the Wool Grower from twenty flocks located in nine states.

The percentage lamb yield is obtained by counting the number of lambs docked against the number of ewes remaining on hand from the bands as bred last fall. The number lost during the winter is eliminated from the calculation, but the number on hand and not dropping lambs is included. The percentage of such dry ewes is shown in the right-hand column.

	Per Cent of Lambs	Ewes of Breeding Age on Hand at Lambing Time	Number of Lambs Docked	Per Cent of Ewes Not Lambing
Stockton, Calif.....	100.	975	975	2.5
Sutter, Calif.....	112.7	1950	2200	2.5
Mt. Morrison, Colo.....	111.7	850	950	2.1
Saguache, Colo.....	92.	1280	1180	8.
Saguache, Colo.....	137.9	375	517	4.3
Melba, Idaho.....	113.4	2335	2650	4.2
Oakley, Idaho.....	128.5	1252	1610	8.8
Custer, Mont.....	113.6	418	485	3.
Martinsdale, Mont.....	87.3	985	860	10.
Roswell, N. W.....	88.	790	700	6.3
Dayville, Ore.....	85.	1097	934	3.9
Heppner, Ore.....	98.	2310	2265	5.2
Mitchell, Ore.....	79.4	3525	2800	17.
North Powder, Ore.....	92.4	2500	2300	12.
Del Rio, Texas.....	81.4	860	700	5.8
Ft. Stockton, Tex.....	87.9	3900	3430
Cedar City, Utah.....	121.9	82	100	3.6
Grand Dalles, Wash.....	105.	2586	2739	6.3
Prosser, Wash.....	107.3	4100	4400	6.
Roosevelt, Wash.....	125.9	1800	2267	5.

SANITATION

At this season when every sheepman takes his pen in hand to figure out lamb yields, and hoped-for profits on the crop, the following paragraph from the report of the State Sheep Commission of Idaho comes as a bit of timely advice:

"Sanitation and hygiene plays a very important part in sheep husbandry, and where it is not given proper consideration, especially with reference to barn yards, corrals and lambing sheds, diseases such as naval ill, necrosis of the liver, lip and

leg ulceration (in its various forms), infections diarrhoea in new-born lambs, and septic metritis in ewes may, and frequently do occur and result in more or less losses. We, therefore, have urged the thorough cleaning and disinfecting of all premises where sheep are kept and especially where lambing is carried out."

AROUND THE RANGE COUNTRY

(Continued from page 18)

heavy first crop of hay was cut in the Logandale district, of extreme southern Nevada, and a good crop of grain has been cut.

Lovelock

We have had a cold, backward spring and at present (May 10) feed on the spring range is short, but improving.

We are lambing now and although we bred more ewes, our yield of lambs will be smaller proportionately than last spring's crop. Ten and eleven cents has been given recently for feeder lambs with delivery to be made next fall.

Wool shrinking around 64 to 66 per cent has brought 29 to 31 cents in this section recently.

John G. Taylor.

UTAH

Live stock and ranges have done only fairly well, though the month was mostly favorable for shearing and lambing. Copious rains have kept pastures well moistened in the northern Wasatch Mountains, but cold weather has hindered the growth of grasses and browse. In the middle, southern and eastern portions it has been cold and abnormally dry. Alfalfa was cut short because of the late spring and weevil depredations in places; but it was mostly handled without rain injury. Many fields of alfalfa still uncut were damaged by frost late in May. Range sheep fleeces are reported light at Monroe.

St. George

May has been a dry and windy month and the range feed is commencing to dry up. Our lambing losses were slightly below the average and from all appearances at present we will raise more than we usually do. Contracts for feeders have been signed at ten to 10½ cents.

Wool has been bought recently at 25 to 30 cents; the estimated shrink being 63 per cent. Recent sales in ewes have been at \$9 for shorn yearlings and the same price for older ewes with lambs.

Jos. T. Atkin.

Myton

Feed on the spring range is very good at this time (May 7), but it needs rain, as the weather during the past few weeks has been very dry and windy.

Thirty-one cents has been offered for wool, but no sales made. Wether lambs have been contracted at ten to eleven cents and the ewe lambs at twelve cents. We expect a slightly larger lamb crop this year than we raised last year. Shorn yearling ewes have been purchased at \$10.50 a head and those of good ages with the wool on have brought \$15.

T. A. Gardner.

Panguitch

It is warm at this time (May 2), but up until last week it was quite cold, and while the grass is growing nicely now, it has been retarded on account of the cold weather. Generally speaking feed is better than usual and it looks as if our lamb crop will be better than usual. Contract prices on the feeder end range from 10 to 10½ cents. No sales of ewes have been made, but \$9 has been offered for old ewes with lambs. The last wool deal here was at 31¼ cents for wool shrinking around 60 per cent.

S. O. Henrie.

COLORADO

The weather has been too cold, and in many counties, too dry for best growth of ranges, meadows and crops. High winds have also interfered with growth of crops. Alfalfa suffered some frost injury on the western slope; and corn and alfalfa are poor in the southeastern district. Pastures and ranges are rated only fair as a rule, and poor in the southeastern area; live stock are only fairly good. Shearing is generally completed in satisfactory circumstances, and sheep have been moved to summer ranges generally.

Saguache

The fore part of April brought us a lot of moisture, but during the latter

part of the month and at present, the early part of May, it has been warm and dry. We do not have any range in this section until late April or early May, but conditions indicate that it will be good this year.

Offers of 30 cents a pound have been made for wool, but there have been no sales consummated here in Saguache. Shearing rates have been 12½ cents per head with board and 15 cents per head without board.

We expect to have a larger lamb crop this year than in 1926, as more ewes were bred. A good many of our feeder lambs have been contracted for fall delivery at 11 cents.

Frank H. Means.

Garo

May brought a lot of cold and windy days and as a result the spring feed is very dry at present (May 24). Our lambing losses were higher this year and our percentage of lambs raised is not a very high one. No wool has been sold in this locality recently.

Chalmers Galloway L. S. Co.

Saguache

Most of May has been dry and cold and feed on the spring range is very backward.

Our lamb crop is short this year on account of having quite a number of dry ewes, but there has been no serious loss of young lambs. Eleven cents has tied up the feeder end of the crop for fall delivery. No sales of ewes have been reported, neither has any wool been bought here lately.

J. W. Alexander.

ARIZONA

The weather has been cool much of the time, but ranges have had ample moisture and made a good growth, being generally in good or excellent condition; consequently live stock are thriving as a rule. However, range and live-stock conditions are reported only fair in the more northern or higher parts of the state, where the snow was rather late disappearing. Streams are generally flowing full. The last cutting of alfalfa has been made in many fields in the Yuma section.

NEW MEXICO

Prolonged drought in southern and eastern counties has been unusually severe on agricultural and live-stock interests. Ranges are mostly poor, and some are barren, and live stock are generally thin and poor, many having been moved from the southeastern portion, and some feeding is reported. Ranges over the rest of the state are only fairly good.

Roy

Most of the days during May were good and range conditions are fair. On my range at present (May 25) it is very dry and the ewes have no milk. Lambing has been very successful here on account of the good winter and the dry weather during lambing time. Our loss was lighter than in other years. I have had no offer for my wool yet, but most of the lambs in this section, that is the feeders, have been signed up at from 10½ to 11¼ cents, or \$5.75 per head.

D. M. Martinez.

Roswell

We have been having very dry weather and as a result, the prospect for good feed on the range is very bad. Our lamb crop is about 60 per cent under that of a year ago, as our losses during lambing were much heavier. The contract prices for feeder lambs are 10½ to 11 cents.

J. S. Townsend.

WESTERN TEXAS

Ranges are in great need of rain, as a long continued drought and warm windy weather have been severe on most ranges. Live stock are mostly in only fair condition as a result of poor range conditions. Only locally have showers been sufficient to bring on the grass properly.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Redig

An unexpected rain and windstorm which commenced on May 5 and lasted four days caused a very severe live-stock loss in this and nearby states. Previously

there had been a heavy snowstorm and the rain and wind seem to put the finishing touches to the bad situation.

I lost only a few ewes, but others were not so fortunate. One man living on the Marean River lost around 400 head of two-year-old ewes. They left the bed-ground on high land and bedded on one used, I suppose, in the winter, and a sudden rush of water took part of his band. Some outfits lost half of the lambs on hand.

I am busy lambing. The coyotes killed four lambs within fifty yards of a lantern that was still burning. It seems the only way to get these killers would be trail hounds. Believe me, nobody but a sheepman knows what he has to go through to make both ends meet and keep down the loss.

H. C. Maurer.

WEST TEXAS

As this is written, June 1, the threat of drought is hanging over the entire sheep raising district of West Texas with some feeding being done in parts, but with plenty of grass in most sections. All the weeds have gone, however, due to the lack of rain to keep them green. The ranchers say they can go on without real distress for sixty to ninety days without rain, but distress would be really actual should there be no rain in the fall. The annual precipitation in the sheep and goat country during the last two years has been as much as the cotton farmers expect. In fact, conditions have been so good that they could not have been better. It would be a fool's paradise to think conditions can be perfect always and that periods of mild misfortune are never to strike.

But the sheepman in West Texas is still batting a 1000, in the slang of baseball. His wool was bought up at prices ranging up to 41¾ cents for the twelve months' and up to 34 for eight months', and the buying campaign participated in by twenty-seven buyers in the course of a week bought up the big part of that wool which had not been contracted. During that campaign there were more buyers than have usually operated in this section and many new firms were represented. Of course, the better prices went for clips

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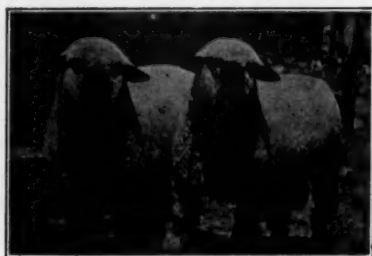
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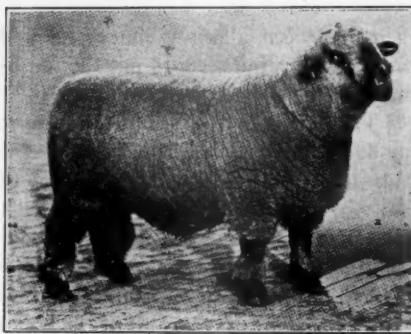


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Wendell, Idaho
Minnie Miller, Owner.

that had been closely tagged and carefully prepared; the clippings from this wool brought about 16 cents. The Texas wool clip this year is estimated at 27,000,000, including 5,500,000 pounds of short wool. About 8,500,000 pounds of wool had been contracted prior to the sale. Prices obtained in the warehouse wool sales were better than those obtained by the individual ranchmen through the contract method.

As a matter of fact the wool business in this country has grown to be a sideline to the raising of lambs, for the lambs are without question the money-getters. The character of the wool is being improved, however, by breeding. The lambs have been pretty well contracted, most of the contracts being with neighbors. Several individuals, however, have made purchases of 20,000 to 30,000 lambs. The northern buyers have a few of these lambs under contract. Estimates are that 250,000 lambs had been contracted all over the country at the first of June.

Prices for these lambs have been better than they were last season, at least better than they were at the opening of last season. Mutton lambs have brought ten cents, mixed lambs 10½ and ewe lambs eleven cents. These are the average prices. Some lambs with better blood, or owned perhaps by men who are better salesmen have brought better prices. The prices quoted are, of course, all on fall deliveries. The lamb crop has averaged about 85 per cent over the state.

The country is pretty heavily stocked and if the dry weather becomes really bad, it will mean that prices will go down.

Sam Ashburn.

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The Mountain States Telephone & Telegraph Co.

WILD HORSE ROUNDUP IN WYOMING

At the last session of the Wyoming legislature a law was passed providing for eradication of the wild horse evil through official roundups. The first of these to be held under the new law is set for July 10 to August 4 in Campbell County. Stockmen of several other counties in the state have filed petitions for roundups with their county commissioners, but no announcements have been made as to whether or not others will take place.

GOOD WOOL FROM GOOD SHEEP

The report that Mr. J. F. Walker, secretary of the Ohio Wool Growers Cooperative Association and associated with the Department of Agriculture in special work, was to visit Australia and New Zealand to make a study of the wool growing industry in those countries has brought forth the following interesting letter from Sydney, Australia, published in the Commercial Bulletin of April 23, in regard to the reason for the high quality of Australian wool:

"The news has just been published that Mr. J. F. Walker, a research student associated with the Department of Agriculture, Washington, will spend a year in Australia and New Zealand studying wool production.

"Delegates from leading cooperative wool marketing associations, representing 38,000 American wool producers, met in Washington at the Department of Agriculture, according to this cablegram. Wool from Africa and Australia threatens to dominate the American market, Mr. Walker told this meeting, according to this message. It is better graded and suited to mill requirements. 'We want to know how these foreign producers produce quality wool, how they meet mill requirements and how their product is merchandised,' Mr. Walker declared.

"Part of Mr. Walker's question is answered—that regarding quality wool—frequently in the news columns of the papers by announcing the high prices paid for sheep in order to improve the flocks. A sale of stud sheep was held at Hay where about 1800 pure Wanganella blood ewes of the celebrated Canoon stud were offered. Bidding was keen from a large attendance of buyers from all over New South Wales and Victoria. The whole lot were cleared in two hours.

"A special stud ram lambled October, 1923, by a 5,000 guinea (\$25,000) ram, brought 600 guineas (more than \$3,000); a ram four and one-half years old went for 300 guineas (about \$1500); eight rams averaged L129-16-0 (about \$1045); one buyer paid about L3000 (\$15,000) for six rams and 630 ewes."

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The best mutton sheep. Evidence; the highest-priced car mutton lambs ever sold in the world was a car of Hampshires. The price was 42 cents a pound live weight, having beaten all previous records by \$7 per hundred. When you want sheep you want Hampshires. When you want Hampshires let the American Hampshire Sheep Association send you a dandy little booklet and list of live breeders.

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In that period, Southern Pacific's Pacific Lines alone expended \$258,261,243 of new capital in order that raw materials may flow unobstructed to farm and factory while the products of YOUR brain and brawn travel swiftly to waiting markets.

By continued initiative, aided by public faith and a more comprehensive mutual understanding of the problems involved, railroads plan to meet transportation demands of the future as efficiently as they are meeting those of today.

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An Exceptionally Good Sheep Dip

1 Part Kreso Dip No. 1 to 72 Parts
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For shear-cuts, superficial wire cuts, certain surface sores, or incisions, or after docking and branding-tends to repel attacks on wound by Screw Worm Flies, Wool Maggot Flies, and similar blow flies. Very inexpensive.

Pt. cans, 60 cents; Qts. \$1.00; 1/2 Gal., \$2.00; 1 Gal., \$3.00; 5 Gal., \$12.50
If cash accompanies order, we pay freight or postage in U. S. A. Trial cans 25 cents postpaid.

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KILLS Scab-mites, Lice and Sheep Ticks

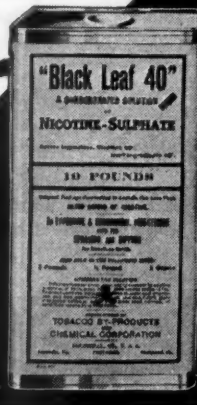
"Black Leaf 40" is chemically certain to kill these sheep parasites when brought into proper contact with them, yet is non-injurious to sheep and lambs. Its use as a dip actually promotes growth of wool, and does not lessen its natural oils. Instead of using dips that are frequently fatal to sheep, that injure the fleece and decrease its value and weight, sheep breeders year after year are finding "Black Leaf 40" the "old reliable" for genuine protection and profitable dipping.

Ask your dealer for literature.

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40% Nicotine



FOLLOW THESE SUGGESTIONS FOR DIPPING

Keep the animals in the bath for two minutes.

Dip all animals in your flock.

Avoid infected corrals, ranges and trails.

Break up and hand-treat scabby spots.

Completely submerge the animal by ducking head twice.

Be sure the dip reaches and wets the parasites.

Carefully read directions on our labels.

MAKING GRAZING LANDS MORE PRODUCTIVE

(Continued from page 21)

in favor of some sort of control of these lands to give the user greater security in order that he may apply better methods. It is not an argument against the principle of better range management.

Better range management can and is being applied as fast as it can be worked out on the National Forests. Some advancement has been made, and these ranges have improved materially in the last decade, but progress is slow. Progress is slow primarily because present facilities are inadequate to meet the needs of working out the many intricate problems involved. There may be some individuals who feel they have not sufficient security in National Forest ranges to make it pay to attempt better range management on these areas. Actual experience, however, has demonstrated that the better methods are working out to the advantage of the individual. In so far as the welfare of the sheep industry as a whole is concerned, it is essential that National Forest range be handled and used as efficiently as possible, since anything less than this causes the industry to suffer.

Need For Scientific Study of Grazing

Attempt has been made thus far to point out some of the problems in the use of grazing lands, the progress that has been made in their solution, and what this progress, together with more complete solution, will mean to the range live stock industry. The proposition of how more completely to solve the problems of the present day, and those of the future, still remains for consideration. Granting that the problems exist and that they call for solution, how may they best be solved?

There are but two methods. The first is the gradual building up of better methods through years of every-day use and trial; that is, the method of trial and error. The other is bringing in the aid of science, or in other words, scientific research and experimentation.

The first has its place to a certain degree, but after all it is slow and wasteful. Years of effort might be lost, and in the end the cost would be very high. The fact that such little progress has been

June, 1927

THE NATIONAL WOOL GROWER

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made in building up more efficient methods by trial and error since range use began, should be enough evidence in itself that this method will not suffice.

Modern agriculture in the whole United States is now receiving the benefit of scientific study and experiments from an annual expenditure of \$18,000,000 to \$20,000,000 for research purposes. Of this amount \$12,000,000 is contributed by the Federal government, and the remainder by the various states and other agencies. But very little of this amount is being devoted to the solution of range problems. Approximately \$50,000 a year is now being spent by the Federal government for the study of grazing problems, by the various state experiment stations. About one-fourth the amount expended by the Federal government is for the Great Basin Experiment Station, located at Ephraim, Utah, which is studying range problems in the Intermountain region. A little more than this amount is being used mainly for the study of cattle ranges in the Southwest. The remainder is being expended for a small amount of study in the Northwest, and elsewhere, and for forage studies and general overhead in Washington. On the whole, these expenditures are little more than nothing as compared to the size of the range live stock industry, and the other developments that it affects.

Although the amount expended on grazing problems is small, good results have been obtained as far as the money has been able to go. Its chief result, however, has been to indicate what might be expected if the problems were attacked on the scale that they should be. A sufficiently comprehensive study should cover all of the problems of forage management and use, range improvement through natural revegetation and artificial reseeding, carrying capacity, range development, and grazing in relation to other resources, for each of the principal range conditions in the West.

On first thought, grazing in relation to other resources such as watershed protection, forest growth and game may not appear to be a range man's problem. But the highest use of land valuable for grazing is often diversified use, and where the other resources occur on the same land,

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They were the first to adopt a form of marketing agreement for wool, which has now become a standard with wool-marketing associations.

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They have acted as a stabilizing factor in the country wool market where the association operates.

Friends and foes, alike, testify that the association has raised wool prices for non-members.

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their development is necessary for good economics. In such instances, it is necessary to work out the problems of related use so that each may be correlated to the full advantage of all the resources. Without such correlation or in the absence of the facts upon which to base it, one form of use may be unnecessarily restricted. The sheep industry frequently suffers from public sentiment unfavorable to grazing, which sentiment often is based upon misunderstanding or lack of real information regarding the true place of grazing in agricultural economy. Usually when all the facts are known, it is possible to develop practices which will result in full development and utilization of all the resources.

Cost of Range Investigations

The amount of money required for an adequate range program is a little difficult to estimate. It would not be the best plan to go into such work on too large a scale. Limiting the work within reasonable bounds would result in concentrating on the more fundamental problems and prevent waste of money on unimportant side issues. On the other hand, the amount should not be kept below the real needs.

A report by the Society of American Foresters, dealing with the needs of range, and other research, estimates that the Federal government's share of the expenditures for a suitable national range research program for the next decade, should be approximately \$275,000 a year. That does not appear inconsistent with the size of the problems and the importance of the range live stock industry. Of this amount approximately \$85,000 a year should be devoted to range experimental work in the Intermountain region or southern Idaho, Utah, Nevada, and adjacent states. Such a large share of the total amount for the West for study of problems in the Intermountain region is not excessive when it is considered that this region is the heart of the range live stock area and the meeting ground for the problems of the West. Moreover, other phases of agriculture in the Intermountain region are based upon live stock production. This would provide for study of

(Continued on page 48)

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Our Premium Offer

For two NEW subscriptions to the National Wool Grower, \$1.50 each, we will send either one of the knives shown below. One is the regulation scout knife and the other a very fine stock knife. The name "Remington" tells the story of their quality.

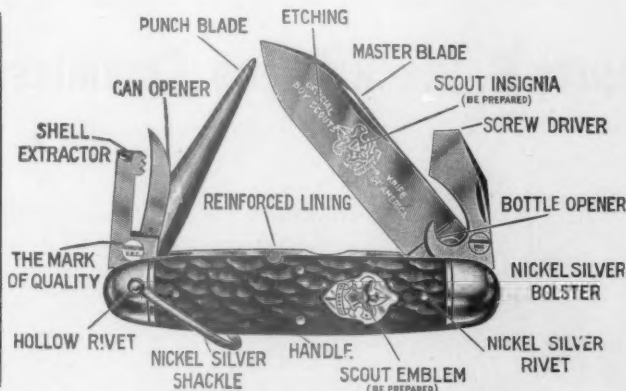


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Length, closed, 3 ¼ inches.
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the high mountain summer range, the spring-fall range, and the winter desert range in each of these various states in a manner to solve the bigger and more important problems in range use.

With the information thus gained to draw upon, the live stock industry of the West would be able to establish itself upon a firm foundation. The limits of the most economical range use would be better known. Related resources would be provided for. The vicissitudes of climate might largely be eliminated. Production in general could be placed on a more stable basis. In short, it would be possible to make the progress in the use of grazing lands that is needed to keep pace with developments in the other phases of the range live stock industry, and with a rapidly developing world.

THE FOURTH NATIONAL MEAT STORY CONTEST

The National Live Stock and Meat Board has just concluded its Fourth National Meat Story Contest. This contest, which is now an annual event, is accomplishing much in the way of practical meat education. This year over 13,500 girls competed, representing all sections of the United States. It is estimated that the interest shown in the event this year was one hundred per cent greater than that evidenced in the first contest, which suggests a like increase in the attention given to meat in the schools.

The stories submitted by the girls indicate that a very thorough study of meat is being made—a study which includes some knowledge of the factors that make quality in meat, of how to select meat, how to cook it, and how to make use of all the cuts. In learning these things the students are brought in contact with the retailers, the wholesalers and other branches of the industry. They are gaining a better knowledge of the steps necessary to bring meat to the table, which is education of a thoroughly practical nature.

The district winners of the 1927 contest were: Rose Schmidt, Moorestown, N. J., national and eastern district champion; Pearl Millsap, Epworth, Ga., southern district; Dorothy Drake, Yakima, Wash., western district; and Emma May Yeo, Maryville, Mo., central district.